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COLLEGE 2007 Football

67th Year

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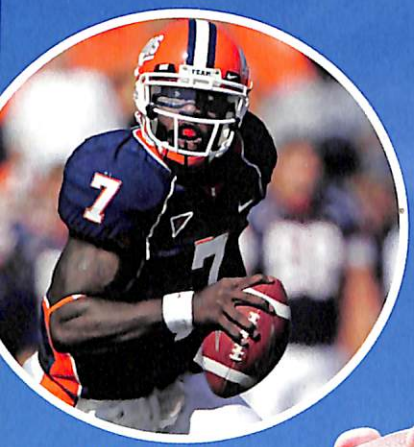

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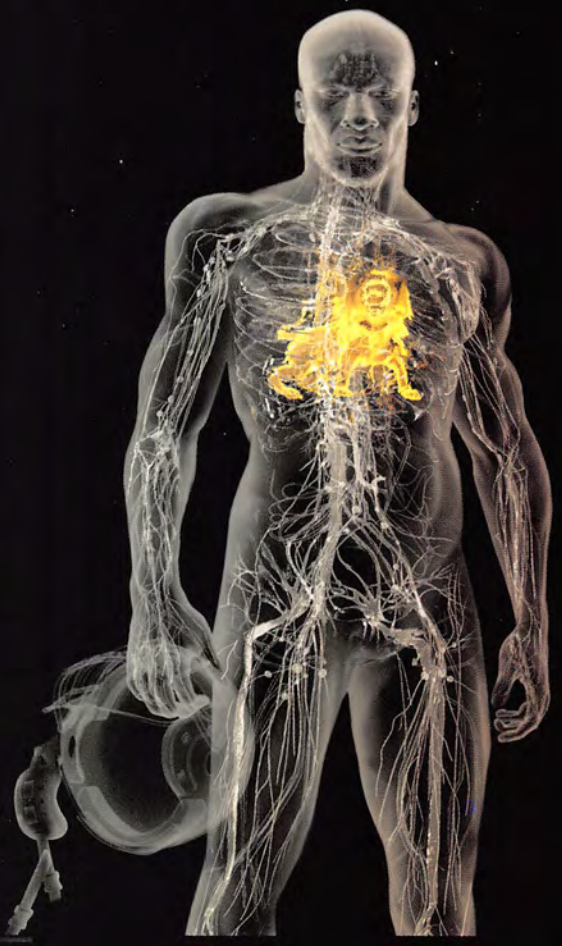

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Retro Rodger

When Rodger Wood retired after 42 years with the U.S. Treasury Department early last year, he didn't quite know what to expect.

"When you get back from having your morning coffee, it dawns on you pretty quickly that there's nothing in the house except two cats and you," the father of three and grandfather of six from Sterling, Va., recalls. "You find out that you have to find something to do fast."

Fortunately for us, that's never been a problem for Rodger, whose photos grace nine of our 13 "throwback" covers for this year's *Street & Smith's College Football* yearbook. When we decided to embark on this project to recreate *Street & Smith's* glorious old cover shots featuring posed players sans face masks, Rodger volunteered for the mission and put in thousands of miles in the air and on the road to make it happen.

With the help of Creative Director Keith Wood and Copy Editor Jonathan Woog, who contacted sports information directors and equipment managers to set up these retro shoots with college football's best, Rodger went nonstop from April 12 in Louisville with Brian Brohm to May 8 in Columbus, Ohio, with James Laurinaitis.

Wood estimates that he took about 200 shots each of all the players he shot, asking them to pose the way *Street & Smith's* photographers shot the college stars of the 1950s and '60s—flying through the air while making catches, diving on fumbles, stiff-arming, gritting their teeth in anticipation of tackles.

After his session with Laurinaitis, the Ohio State All-American told Rodger that his 45-minute workout was almost as tough as some of his Buckeye practices spent with Coach Jim Tressel.

In addition to Brohm and Laurinaitis, there were 12 other players who were willing and very helpful participants in this project: Rutgers' Ray Rice, Clemson's C.J. Spiller, Tennessee's Erik Ainge, Arkansas' Darren McFadden, Florida's Tim Tebow, Texas' Colt McCoy, Oklahoma's Allen Patrick, California's DeSean Jackson, UCLA's Bruce Davis, USC's John David Booty and West Virginia's Patrick White and Steve Slaton.

As you'll be able to tell from the photographs, they seemed to enjoy it as much as Rodger, who says he especially "hit it off" with WVU running back Slaton and Cal receiver Jackson.

"They were all great, but DeSean Jackson was very outgoing and really wanted to make it perfect; he hugged me at the end," Wood says. "In one sequence, I took a group of shots with him jumping over me to make a catch. We worked very well together."

At Arkansas, McFadden actually broke out a leather helmet to pose for some of his shots, prompting Wood to tell the Razorback star that he actually played with a leather helmet during his high school football days while growing up in Detroit.

That's not all Rodger has done. He spent a year in the Merchant Marines before heading off to college at the University of Detroit, where he says a Jesuit priest "turned me around and put my head on straight." He went on to get a master's degree from Wayne State University in public administration before embarking on his long career in government.

His thirst for learning is what got him into photography. Hanging around minor league ballparks in Hagerstown, Md., and Prince William, Va., while taking pictures to get autographed developed into a second job back in the early 1980s and, before you knew it, his pictures were turning up regularly in publications like *Baseball America* and *USA Today* and on baseball cards for Upper Deck.

And, of course, today, when he's not substitute teaching at elementary schools or taking German classes at the local junior college, he's traveling across the country shooting covers for us.

Thanks, Rodger. Obviously, we couldn't have done it without you.

SCOTT SMITH
EDITOR

TOP TO BOTTOM: THOMAS A. WOOD; RODGER M. WOOD

Turn back the clock ...

a look back at the inspiration for the 2007 Street & Smith's covers

1964 Roger Staubach *Navy*

1971 Pat Sullivan *Auburn*

1972 Brad Van Pelt *Michigan State*

1975 Archie Griffin *Ohio State*

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COLLEGE Football 67th Year

JUNE 2007

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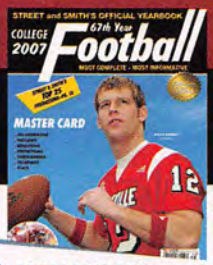
NORTHEAST

Cover: Ray Rice, RB, Rutgers
Inset: Matt Ryan, QB, Boston College

NORTH ATLANTIC

Cover: Patrick White & Steve Slaton, West Virginia backfield
Inset: Dan Connor, LB, Penn State

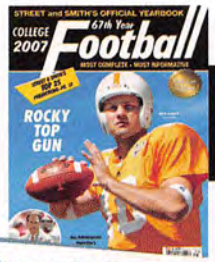


APPALACHIANS

Cover: Brian Brohm, QB, Louisville
Inset: Branden Ore, RB, Virginia Tech

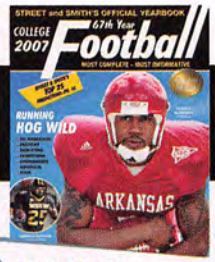
SOUTH ATLANTIC

Cover: C.J. Spiller, RB, Clemson
Inset: Riley Skinner, QB, Wake Forest



SOUTHEAST

Cover: Erik Ainge, QB, Tennessee
Inset: New Alabama Coach Nick Saban

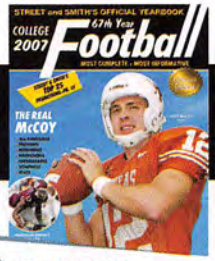


DEEP SOUTH

Cover: Darren McFadden, RB, Arkansas
Inset: Damion Fletcher, RB, So. Miss

FLORIDA

Cover: Tim Tebow, QB, Florida
Inset: Myron Rolle, DB, FSU



SOUTHWEST

Cover: Colt McCoy, QB, Texas
Inset: Martellus Bennett, TE, Texas A&M

MIDEAST

Cover: Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame
Inset: Juice Williams, QB, Illinois

MIDWEST

Cover: James Laurinaitis, LB, Ohio State
Inset: Mike Hart, RB, Michigan

MIDLANDS

Cover: Allen Patrick, RB, Oklahoma
Inset: Sam Keller, QB, Nebraska

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Cover: DeSean Jackson, WR, Cal
Inset: Ian Johnson, RB, Boise State

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FAR WEST

Dual Cover: Bruce Davis, DE, UCLA and John David Booty, QB, USC
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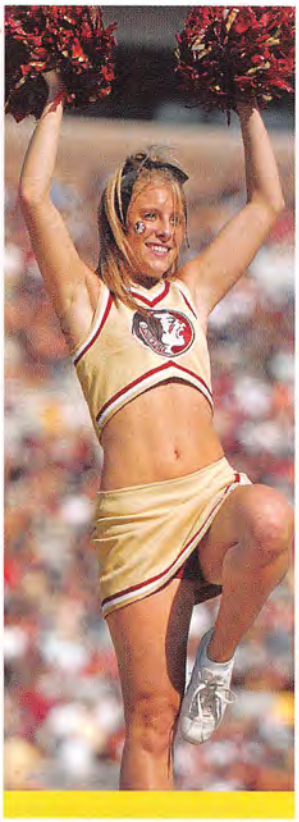

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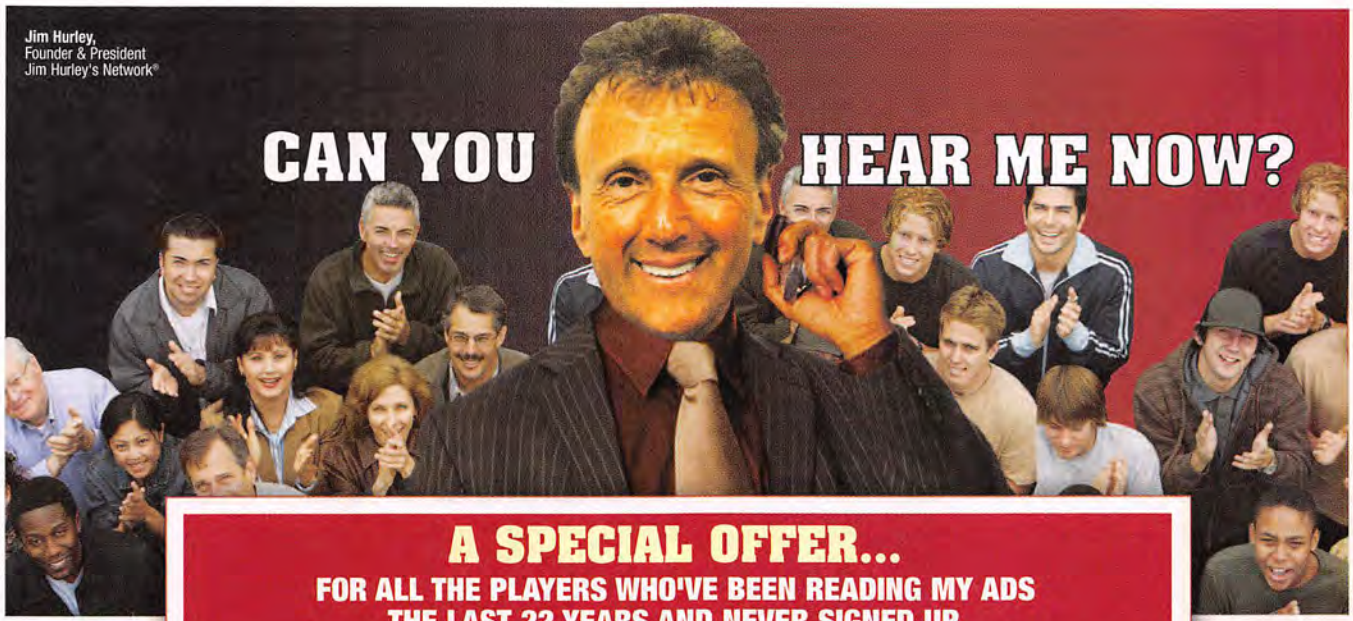
TOP TO BOTTOM: RODGER M. WOOD; WALTER DIXON; MIKE ALLEN



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TARGETS

—compiled by Matt McKenzie

PASSING YARDS

Timmy Chang, *Hawaii*	17,072
Ty Detmer, *BYU*	15,031
Philip Rivers, *N.C. State*	13,484
Kevin Kolb, *Houston*	12,964
Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech*	12,746
Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech*	12,666
Chris Redman, *Louisville*	12,541
Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech*	12,429
Byron Leftwich, *Marshall*	11,903
Brady Quinn, *Notre Dame*	11,762
David Greene, *Georgia*	11,528
Gino Guidugli, *Cincinnati*	11,453
Todd Santos, *San Diego St.*	11,425
Carson Palmer, *USC*	11,388
Tim Lester, *Western Michigan*	11,299
Derek Anderson, *Oregon St.*	11,249
Peyton Manning, *Tennessee*	11,201
Eric Zeier, *Georgia*	11,153
Jordan Palmer, *UTEP*	11,084
Charlie Frye, *Akron*	11,049
John Beck, *BYU*	11,021
Ryan Schneider, *UCF*	10,976
Alex Van Pelt, *Pittsburgh*	10,913
Drew Brees, *Purdue*	10,909
David Neil, *Nevada*	10,903
Danny Wuerffel, *Florida*	10,875
Ben Roethlisberger, *Miami (OH)*	10,829
Chad Pennington, *Marshall*	10,698
Matt Leinart, *USC*	10,693
Kevin Sweeney, *Fresno St.*	10,623
Andrew Walter, *Arizona St.*	10,617
Brett Basanez, *Northwestern*	10,580
Doug Flutie, *Boston College*	10,579
Steve Stenstrom, *Stanford*	10,531

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

COLT BRENNAN, *Hawaii*	9,850
CHAD HENNE, *Michigan*	7,777
BRET MEYER, *Iowa St.*	7,348

A look at college football's all-time Division I-A leaders and this year's players looking to challenge them.
—*statistics courtesy of NCAA*

TOUCHDOWNS

Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)*	78
Ricky Williams, *Texas*	75
Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	69
Brock Forsey, *Boise St.*	68
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	67
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	65
Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	63
Marshall Faulk, *San Diego St.*	62
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Eric Crouch, *Nebraska*	59
Glenn Davis, *Army*	59
Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh*	59
Dwone Hicks, *Middle Tennessee*	59
DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico*	59
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	57
Ken Simonton, *Oregon St.*	57
LenDale White, *USC*	57
Garrett Wolfe, *Northern Illinois*	57

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

STEVE SLATON, *West Virginia*	37
DAVONE BESS, *Hawaii*	29
KALVIN McRAE, *Ohio*	29

POINTS

Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)*	468
Ricky Williams, *Texas*	452
Roman Anderson, *Houston*	423
Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	414
Billy Bennett, *Georgia*	409
Brock Forsey, *Boise St.*	408
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	404
Carlos Huerta, *Miami (Fla.)*	397
Jason Elam, *Hawaii*	395
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	394
Nick Novak, *Maryland*	393
Derek Schmidt, *Florida St.*	393
Kris Brown, *Nebraska*	388
Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	378
Marshall Faulk, *San Diego St.*	376
Xavier Beitia, *Florida St.*	375
Eric Crouch, *Nebraska*	374
Shayne Graham, *Virginia Tech*	371
Jeff Hall, *Tennessee*	371

PHILIP RIVERS
13,484 PASSING YARDS

STEVE SLATON
37 TOUCHDOWNS

POINTS

Justin Ayat, *Hawaii*	370
Steve Azar, *Northern Illinois*	370

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

ART CARMODY, *Louisville*	341
ALEXIS SERNA, *Oregon St.*	292
JEREMY ITO, *Rutgers*	280

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Ty Detmer, *BYU*	121
Timmy Chang, *Hawaii*	117
Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech*	115
Danny Wuerffel, *Florida*	114
Chad Pennington, *Marshall*	100
Matt Leinart, *USC*	99
Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech*	95
Brady Quinn, *Notre Dame*	95
Philip Rivers, *N.C. State*	95
COLT BRENNAN, *Hawaii*	93
David Klingler, *Houston*	91
Byron Leftwich, *Marshall*	89
Peyton Manning, *Tennessee*	89
Chris Leak, *Florida*	88
Jordan Palmer, *UTEP*	88
Troy Kopp, *Pacific*	87
Tim Lester, *Western Michigan*	87
Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech*	87
Ken Dorsey, *Miami (Fla.)*	86
Bruce Gradkowski, *Tulane*	85
Kevin Kolb, *Houston*	85
Andrew Walter, *Arizona St.*	85

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

CHAD HENNE, *Michigan*	70
ALEX BRINK, *Washington St.*	50

RUSHING YARDS

Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	6,397
Ricky Williams, *Texas*	6,279
Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh*	6,082
DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis*	6,026
Charles White, *USC*	5,598
Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)*	5,596
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	5,540
LaDainian Tomlinson, *TCU*	5,263
Herschel Walker, *Georgia*	5,259
Archie Griffin, *Ohio St.*	5,177
Garrett Wolfe, *Northern Illinois*	5,164
Darren Lewis, *Texas A&M*	5,012
Darren Sproles, *Kansas St.*	4,979
DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico*	4,973
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	4,965
George Rogers, *South Carolina*	4,958
Trevor Cobb, *Rice*	4,948
Michael Turner, *Northern Illinois*	4,941
Paul Palmer, *Temple*	4,895
Steve Bartalo, *Colorado St.*	4,813
Ken Simonton, *Oregon St.*	4,802

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

MIKE HART, *Michigan*	3,679
KALVIN McRAE, *Ohio*	2,964
RAY RICE, *Rutgers*	2,914

RECEIVING YARDS

Trevor Insley, *Nevada*	5,005
Marcus Harris, *Wyoming*	4,518
Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma St.*	4,414
Ryan Yarborough, *Wyoming*	4,357
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	4,352
Aaron Turner, *Pacific*	4,345

RECEIVING YARDS

Terance Mathis, *New Mexico*	4,254
Geoff Noisy, *Nevada*	4,249
Darius Watts, *Marshall*	4,031
Troy Walters, *Stanford*	3,986
Derek Hagan, *Arizona St.*	3,939
Mike Hass, *Oregon St.*	3,924
Josh Davis, *Marshall*	3,889
Roy Williams, *Texas*	3,866
Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech*	3,789
Vincent Marshall, *Houston*	3,770
Marc Zeno, *Tulane*	3,725
Brandon Stokley, *La.-Lafayette*	3,702
Ryne Robinson, *Miami (Ohio)*	3,697
Arnold Jackson, *Louisville*	3,670
David Anderson, *Colorado St.*	3,634
Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming*	3,626
John Standeford, *Purdue*	3,618

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

DORIEN BRYANT, *Purdue*	2,612
DAVONE BESS, *Hawaii*	2,344
TODD BLYTHE, *Iowa St.*	2,317

INTERCEPTIONS

Al Brosky, *Illinois*	29
Martin Bayless, *Bowling Green*	27
John Provost, *Holy Cross*	27
Tom Curtis, *Michigan*	25
Tracy Saul, *Texas Tech*	25
Tony Thurman, *Boston College*	25

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

QUINTIN DEMPS, *UTEP*	12
MARTY TADMAN, *Boise St.*	12
DeJUAN TRIBBLE, *Boston College*	12

RECEPTIONS

Taylor Stubblefield, *Purdue*	316
Josh Davis, *Marshall*	306
Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	303
Arnold Jackson, *Louisville*	300
Trevor Insley, *Nevada*	298
Geoff Noisy, *Nevada*	295
Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma St.*	293
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	280
Vincent Marshall, *Houston*	272
Darius Watts, *Marshall*	272
Aaron Turner, *Pacific*	266
Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech*	264
Terance Mathis, *New Mexico*	263
Mark Templeton, *Long Beach St.*	262
J.R. Tolver, *San Diego St.*	262
Howard Twilley, *Tulsa*	261
Marcus Harris, *Wyoming*	259
Wes Welker, *Texas Tech*	259
Derek Hagan, *Arizona St.*	258
Ryne Robinson, *Miami (Ohio)*	258
Braylon Edwards, *Michigan*	252
Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming*	250
John Standeford, *Purdue*	249
Nate Burleson, *Nevada*	248
Eric Deslauriers, *Eastern Mich.*	248
James Jordan, *Louisiana Tech*	246
David Williams, *Illinois*	245
Troy Walters, *Stanford*	244
Brandon Stokley, *La.-Lafayette*	241
Roy Williams, *Texas*	241

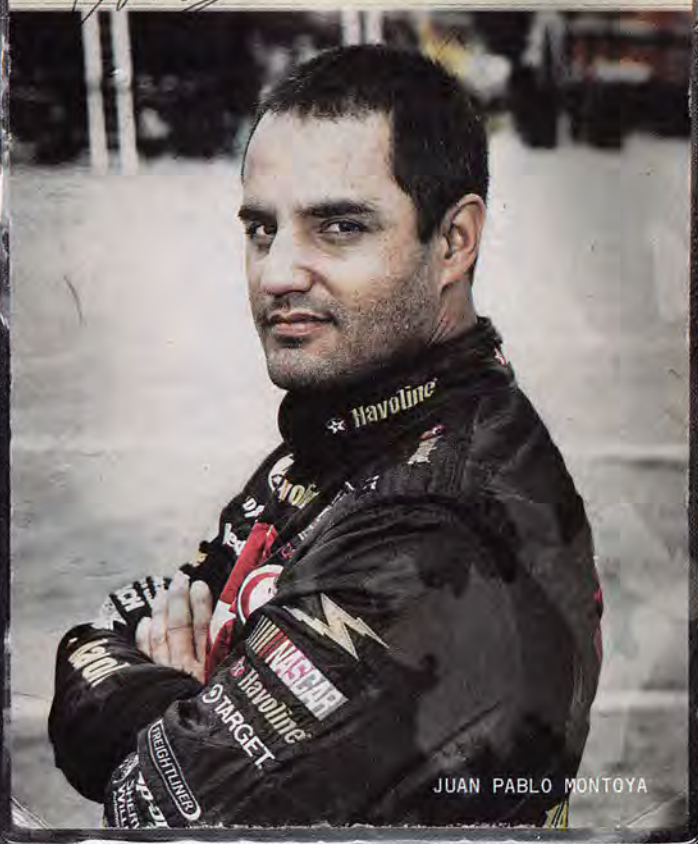
Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

DORIEN BRYANT, *Purdue*	205
DAVONE BESS, *Hawaii*	185

NO. 42

THEY SAY I'M AHEAD OF MY TIME.
WHATEVER, AS LONG AS I'M AHEAD
OF EVERYONE ELSE'S.

HAS SOMETHING TO PROVE



JUAN PABLO MONTOYA

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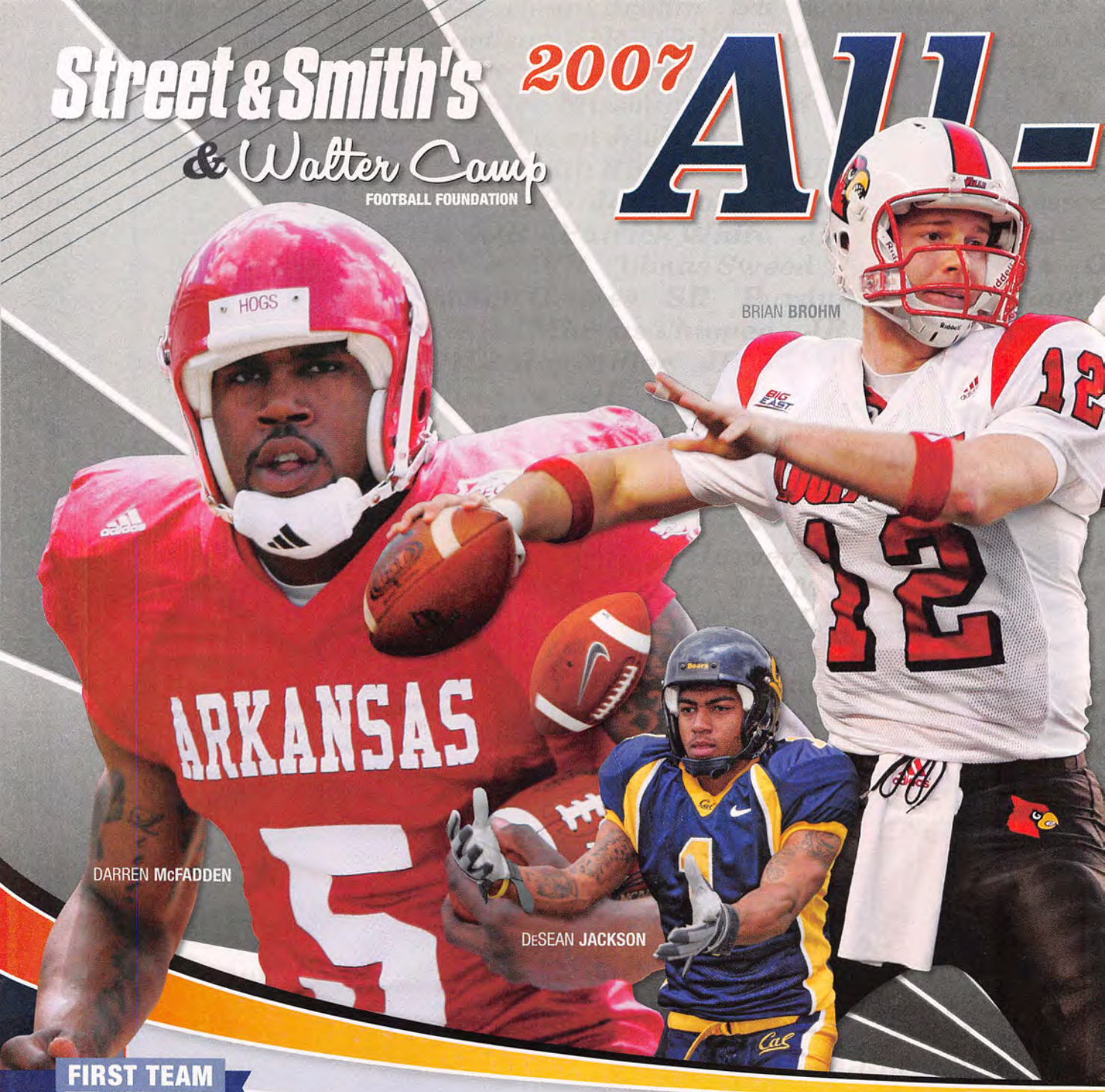
WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE.

NASCAR BUSCH SERIES

Street & Smith's & Walter Camp Football Foundation 2007 All-



BRIAN BROHM

DARREN McFADDEN

DeSEAN JACKSON

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Brian Brohm	SR	Louisville
RB	Darren McFadden	JR	Arkansas
RB	Steve Slaton	JR	West Virginia
WR	DeSean Jackson	JR	California
WR	Mario Manningham	JR	Michigan
OL	Sam Baker	SR	USC
OL	Jake Long	SR	Michigan
OL	Ryan Clady	JR	Boise State
OL	Jeremy Perry	JR	Oregon State
OL	John Sullivan	SR	Notre Dame
TE	Martin Rucker	SR	Missouri
PK	Sam Swank	JR	Wake Forest
KR	Darrell Blackman	SR	N.C. State

DEFENSE

DL	Lawrence Jackson	SR	USC
DL	Tyson Jackson	JR	LSU
DL	Glenn Dorsey	SR	LSU
DL	Sedrick Ellis	SR	USC
LB	Dan Connor	SR	Penn State
LB	Keith Rivers	SR	USC
LB	James Laurinaitis	JR	Ohio State
DB	DeJuan Tribble	SR	Boston College
DB	Aqib Talib	JR	Kansas
DB	Jonathan Hefney	SR	Tennessee
DB	Kenny Phillips	JR	Miami
P	Durant Brooks	SR	Georgia Tech

THIS PAGE: RODGER M. WOOD (2); BROHM: PAUL JASIENSKI; FACING PAGE: TOP (L TO R): STEVE BEYER; RODGER M. WOOD; JOE ROBBINS; SWANK: TOMASSO DEROSA; LONG: PAUL JASIENSKI

America Team

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Patrick White	JR	West Virginia
RB	Mike Hart	SR	Michigan
RB	Ray Rice	JR	Rutgers
WR	Earl Bennett	JR	Vanderbilt
WR	Limas Sweed	SR	Texas
OL	Jonathan Luigs	JR	Arkansas
OL	Alex Boone	JR	Ohio State
OL	John Greco	SR	Toledo
OL	Jordan Grimes	SR	Purdue
OL	Doug Legursky	SR	Marshall
TE	John Carlson	SR	Notre Dame
PK	Art Carmody	SR	Louisville
KR	Marcus Thigpen	JR	Indiana

DEFENSE

DL	Bruce Davis	SR	UCLA
DL	Quentin Groves	SR	Auburn
DL	Frank Okam	SR	Texas
DL	Ian Campbell	JR	Kansas State
LB	Brian Cushing	JR	USC
LB	Vince Hall	SR	Virginia Tech
LB	Jasper Brinkley	SR	South Carolina
DB	DeJuan Tribble	SR	Boston College
DB	Brandon Flowers	JR	Virginia Tech
DB	Antoine Cason	SR	Arizona
DB	Michael Hamlin	JR	Clemson
P	Britton Colquitt	JR	Tennessee

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	John David Booty	SR	USC
RB	P.J. Hill	SO	Wisconsin
RB	Ian Johnson	JR	Boise State
WR	Davone Bess	JR	Hawaii
WR	Chris Williams	JR	New Mexico State
OL	Kirk Barton	SR	Ohio State
OL	Barry Richardson	SR	Clemson
OL	Roy Schuening	SR	Oregon State
OL	Shannon Tevaga	SR	UCLA
OL	Alex Mack	JR	California
TE	Travis Beckum	JR	Wisconsin
PK	Alexis Serna	SR	Oregon State
KR	David Harvey	SO	Akron

DEFENSE

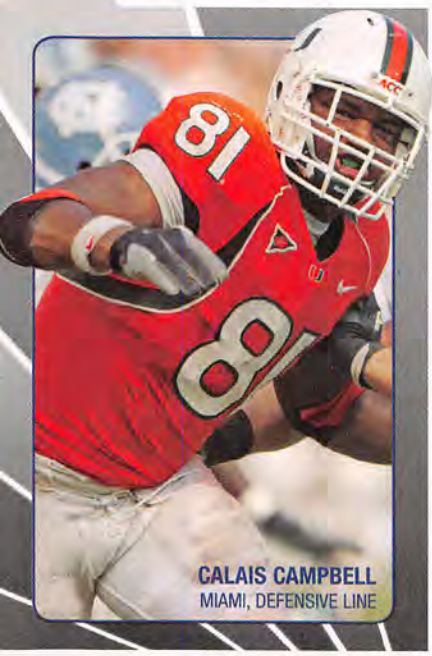
DL	Vernon Gholston	JR	Ohio State
DL	Chris Long	SR	Virginia
DL	Kenny Iwebema	SR	Iowa
DL	Fili Moala	JR	USC
LB	Brian Toal	SR	Boston College
LB	Geno Hayes	JR	Florida State
LB	Xavier Adibi	SR	Virginia Tech
DB	Terrell Thomas	SR	USC
DB	Dwight Lowery	SR	San Jose State
DB	Victor Harris	JR	Virginia Tech
DB	Quintin Demps	SR	UTEP
P	Ken DeBauche	SR	Wisconsin

2007 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Honorable Mention

QUARTERBACKS
Colt Brennan SR Hawaii
Chad Henne SR Michigan
Chase Daniel JR Missouri
Nate Longshore JR California
Brian Johnson JR Utah
Chase Holbrook JR New Mexico State
Curtis Painter SR Purdue
André Woodson SR Kentucky
Colt McCoy SO Texas
Tim Tebow SO Florida
Matt Ryan SR Boston College
Drew Weatherford JR Florida State
Erik Ainge SR Tennessee
Bobby Reid JR Oklahoma State
Stephen McGee JR Texas A&M
Ben Olson JR UCLA
Sam Keller SR Nebraska
Matt Flynn SR LSU
Anthony Morelli SR Penn State
Paul Smith SR Tulsa
Kyle Wright SR Miami
Graham Harrell JR Texas Tech
John Parker Wilson JR Alabama
Willie Tuitama JR Arizona
Isiah Williams SO Illinois
Rudy Carpenter JR Arizona State

RUNNING BACKS
Jamaal Charles JR Texas
Allen Patrick SR Oklahoma
Branden Ore JR Virginia Tech
Tashard Choice SR Georgia Tech
Dantrell Savage SR Oklahoma State
Amir Pinnix SR Minnesota
Ryan Torain SR Arizona State
Chauncey Washington SR USC
Rafael Little SR Kentucky
Justin Forsett SR California
Albert Young SR Iowa
Yvenson Bernard SR Oregon State
Kalvin McRae SR Ohio
Jehuu Caulcrick SR Michigan State
C.J. Spiller SO Clemson
James Davis JR Clemson
Jonathan Stewart JR Oregon
Andre Brown JR N.C. State
Maurice Wells JR Ohio State
Tyrell Sutton JR Northwestern
Marlon Lucky JR Nebraska
Chris Wells SO Ohio State
Javarris James SO Miami
Ben Tate SO Auburn
Anthony Allen SO Louisville
C.J. Gable SO USC
Keiland Williams SO LSU


CALAIS CAMPBELL
MIAMI, DEFENSIVE LINE

WIDE RECEIVERS
Early Doucet SR LSU
Adarius Bowman SR Oklahoma State
Jaison Williams JR Oregon
Andre Caldwell SR Florida
D.J. Hall SR Alabama
Dorien Bryant SR Purdue
Patrick Turner JR USC
Sammie Stroughter SR Oregon State
Maurice Purify SR Nebraska
Percy Harvin SO Florida
Vidal Hazelton SO USC
Darrius Heyward-Bey SO Maryland
Marcus Monk SR Arkansas
Keenan Burton SR Kentucky
Lance Leggett SR Miami
Mario Urrutia JR Louisville
Greg Carr JR Florida State
James Hardy JR Indiana
Jarett Dillard JR Rice
Eddie Royal SR Virginia Tech
Harry Douglas SR Louisville
Darius Reynaud SR West Virginia
Billy Pittman SR Texas
Todd Blythe SR Iowa State
Malcolm Kelly JR Oklahoma
Derrick Williams JR Penn State
Deon Butler JR Penn State

TIGHT ENDS
Chase Coffman JR Missouri
Fred Davis SR USC
Shawn Nelson JR Southern Miss
Jacob Tamme SR Kentucky
Martellus Bennett JR Texas A&M
Kory Sperry SR Colorado State
Dustin Keller SR Purdue
Tom Santi SR Virginia
Jermichael Finley SO Texas
Chris Hopkins SR Toledo
Craig Stevens SR California
Coleman Watson SR Georgia
DajLeon Farr JR Miami
Logan Paulsen JR UCLA
Tony Moeaki JR Iowa
Bear Pascoe JR Fresno State

OFFENSIVE LINE
Will Arnold SR LSU
Gosder Cherilus SR Boston College
Tony Hills SR Texas
Max Unger JR Oregon
Drew Radovich SR USC
Andrew Crummey SR Maryland
Adam Kraus SR Michigan
Chester Adams SR Georgia
Kirk Elder SR Texas A&M
Duke Robinson JR Oklahoma
Nate McManus SR Georgia Tech
Cedric Dockery JR Texas
Michael Oher JR Mississippi
Chilo Rachal JR USC
Herman Johnson JR LSU
Eric VandenHeuvel JR Wisconsin
Pedro Sosa SR Rutgers
Brandon Rodd SR Arizona State
John Greco SR Toledo
Matt Slauson JR Nebraska
Reggie Youngblood JR Miami
Sam Young SO Notre Dame
Steve Justice SR Wake Forest
Trevor Rees SR Northwestern
Tony Brinkhaus SR Minnesota
Adam Spieker SR Missouri
Chris Williams SR Vanderbilt
John Shaw SR Penn State
Tyler Luellen SR Missouri
Eugene Monroe JR Virginia
George Bussey JR Louisville
Yemi Babalola JR Texas A&M
Tyrone Byrd JR Miami
Jason Fox SO Miami
Sergio Render SO Virginia Tech

PLACEKICKERS
Jeremy Ito SR Rutgers
Taylor Mehlhaff SR Wisconsin
Chris Nendick SR Northern Illinois
Brandon Coutu SR Georgia
Patrick Shadle JR Syracuse
Jason Reda SR Illinois
Sergio Aguayo SR UNLV
Garrett Hartley SR Oklahoma
Jamie Christensen SR Alabama
Travis Bell SR Georgia Tech

KICK RETURNERS
Jessie Henderson JR SMU
Brandon Tate JR North Carolina
Terrence Nunn SR Nebraska
Antonio Lewis SR West Virginia
Lionell Singleton SR Fla. International
Damon Nickson SR Middle Tennessee
Jonathan Stewart JR Oregon
Jeff Smith SO Boston College

DEFENSIVE LINE
Chris Ellis SR Virginia Tech
Tommy Blake SR TCU
Louis Holmes SR Arizona
Jeff Owens JR Georgia
DeMario Pressley SR N.C. State
Marcus Harrison SR Arkansas
Demonte Bolden JR Tennessee
Andre Fluellen SR Florida State
Jeffrey Fitzgerald SO Virginia
Ricky Sapp SO Clemson
Calais Campbell JR Miami
Brian Orakpo JR Texas
Matt Shaughnessy JR Wisconsin
Mitch King JR Iowa
Robert Rose SO Ohio State
Brandon Graham SO Michigan
Chase Moline JR UCLA
Myron Pryor JR Kentucky
Antonio Dixon JR Miami
Wallace Gilberry SR Alabama
Phillip Merling JR Clemson
Roy Miller JR Texas
Matt Kroul JR Iowa

LINEBACKERS
Ali Highsmith SR LSU
Shawn Crable SR Michigan
Brandon Spikes SO Florida
Anthony Felder JR California
Myron Rolle SO Florida State
Jerod Mayo JR Tennessee
Erin Henderson JR Maryland
Philip Wheeler SR Georgia Tech
Robert Killebrew SR Texas
Sean Lee JR Penn State
Steve Davis JR Minnesota
Jonathan Goff SR Vanderbilt
J Leman SR Illinois
Corey McKeon SR Nebraska
Rey Maualuga JR USC
Rashad Bobino JR Texas
Curtis Lofton JR Oklahoma
Antonio Clay JR Clemson
Sergio Kindle SO Texas
Prince Hall SO Alabama
Derek Nicholson JR Florida State
Malik Jackson SR Louisville
Bo Ruud SR Nebraska
Nelson Coleman SR Tulsa
Mike Klinkenborg SR Iowa
Ronnie Palmer JR Arizona
Russell Allen JR San Diego State
Darry Beckwith JR LSU

DEFENSIVE BACKS
Chevis Jackson SR LSU
Ambrose Wooden SR Notre Dame
Justin King JR Penn State
Randy Phillips JR Miami
Kevin Thomas JR USC
Alphonso Smith JR Wake Forest
Malcolm Jenkins JR Ohio State
Mike Jenkins SR South Florida
Zackary Bowman SR Nebraska
Jonathan Zenon SR LSU
Marcus Walker SR Oklahoma
Wopamo Osaisai JR Stanford
Tierre Green SR Nebraska
Dennis Keyes SR UCLA
Roger Williams SR Florida State
Jamie Silva SR Boston College
Joe Burnett JR Central Florida
Tony Carter JR Florida State
Mike Mickens JR Cincinnati
Jamar Adams SR Michigan
Tom Zbikowski SR Notre Dame
Josh Barrett SR Arizona State
Jamarca Sanford JR Mississippi
Patrick Chung JR Oregon

PUNTERS
Jimmie Kaylor SR Colorado State
Dave Brytus SR Pittsburgh
Geoff Price SR Notre Dame
Chris Gould SR Virginia
Ryan Succop JR South Carolina
A.J. Trapasso JR Ohio State
Aaron Perez JR UCLA
Zoltan Mesko JR Michigan
Chris Miller JR Ball State
Matt DiLallo SO Colorado
Kyle Loomis SO Oregon State

Honorable Mention

SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATES

HEISMAN TROPHY / WALTER CAMP / MAXWELL TROPHY

John David Booty SR USC
Brian Brohm SR Louisville
Patrick White JR West Virginia
Colt Brennan SR Hawaii
Chad Henne SR Michigan
Chase Daniel JR Missouri
Nate Longshore JR California
Brian Johnson JR Utah
Chase Holbrook JR New Mexico State
Curtis Painter SR Purdue
André Woodson SR Kentucky
Colt McCoy SO Texas
Tim Tebow SO Florida
Matt Ryan SR Boston College
Darren McFadden JR Arkansas
Steve Slaton JR West Virginia
Mike Hart SR Michigan
Ray Rice JR Rutgers
P.J. Hill SO Wisconsin
Ian Johnson JR Boise State
Jamaal Charles JR Texas
Allen Patrick SR Oklahoma
DeSean Jackson JR California
Mario Manningham JR Michigan
Earl Bennett JR Vanderbilt
Limas Sweed SR Texas
Davone Bess JR Hawaii
Chris Williams JR New Mexico State

OUTLAND TROPHY / LOMBARDI AWARD

(Outstanding Lineman)

Glenn Dorsey SR LSU
Jake Long SR Michigan
Sam Baker SR USC
Barry Richardson SR Clemson
Quentin Groves SR Auburn
Sedrick Ellis SR USC
Calais Campbell JR Miami
Ryan Clady JR Boise State
Jeremy Perry JR Oregon State
Lawrence Jackson SR USC
Tyson Jackson JR LSU
Bruce Davis SR UCLA
Frank Okam SR Texas
Vernon Gholston JR Ohio State
Chris Long SR Virginia
Kenny Iwebema SR Iowa
Fili Moala JR USC

DAVEY O'BRIEN

(Outstanding Quarterback)

John David Booty SR USC
Brian Brohm SR Louisville
Patrick White JR West Virginia
Colt Brennan SR Hawaii
Chad Henne SR Michigan
Chase Daniel JR Missouri
Nate Longshore JR California
Brian Johnson JR Utah
Chase Holbrook JR New Mexico State
Curtis Painter SR Purdue
André Woodson SR Kentucky
Colt McCoy SO Texas
Drew Weatherford JR Florida State
Kyle Wright SR Miami (Fla.)

DOAK WALKER

(Outstanding Running Back)

Darren McFadden JR Arkansas
Steve Slaton JR West Virginia
Mike Hart SR Michigan
Ray Rice JR Rutgers
P.J. Hill SO Wisconsin
Ian Johnson JR Boise State
Jamaal Charles JR Texas
Allen Patrick SR Oklahoma
Branden Ore JR Virginia Tech
Tashard Choice SR Georgia Tech
Dantrell Savage SR Oklahoma State
Amir Pinnix SR Minnesota
Ryan Torain SR Arizona State
Chauncey Washington SR USC
Rafael Little SR Kentucky
Justin Forsett SR California
Albert Young SR Iowa
Yvenson Bernard SR Oregon State
Kalvin McRae SR Ohio
Jehuu Caulcrick SR Michigan State
Tyrell Sutton JR Northwestern

FRED BILETNIKOFF AWARD

(Outstanding Receiver)

DeSean Jackson JR California
Mario Manningham JR Michigan
Earl Bennett JR Vanderbilt
Harry Douglas SR Louisville
Limas Sweed SR Texas
Davone Bess JR Hawaii
Jarett Dillard JR Rice
Chris Williams JR New Mexico State
Early Doucet SR LSU
Adarius Bowman SR Oklahoma State
Jaison Williams JR Oregon
Andre Caldwell SR Florida
D.J. Hall SR Alabama
Dorien Bryant SR Purdue
Patrick Turner JR USC
Maurice Purify SR Nebraska
Percy Harvin SO Florida
Vidal Hazelton SO USC
Darrius Heyward-Bey SO Maryland
Marcus Monk SR Arkansas
Keenan Burton SR Kentucky
Lance Leggett SR Miami
Mario Urrutia JR Louisville
Greg Carr JR Florida State
James Hardy JR Indiana

BEDNARIK AWARD / NAGURSKI AWARD

(Outstanding Defensive Player)

Lawrence Jackson SR USC
Tyson Jackson JR LSU
Glenn Dorsey SR LSU
Sedrick Ellis SR USC
Dan Connor SR Penn State
Keith Rivers SR USC
James Laurinaitis JR Ohio State
Aqib Talib JR Kansas
Jonathan Hefney SR Tennessee
Kenny Phillips JR Miami
Bruce Davis SR UCLA
Quentin Groves SR Auburn
Frank Okam SR Texas
Brian Cushing JR USC
Xavier Adibi SR Virginia Tech
Jasper Brinkley SR South Carolina
DeJuan Tribble SR Boston College
Brandon Flowers JR Virginia Tech
Michael Hamlin JR Clemson
Vernon Gholston JR Ohio State
Chris Long SR Virginia
Kenny Iwebema SR Iowa
Fili Moala JR USC
Brian Toal SR Boston College
Geno Hayes JR Florida State
Vince Hall SR Virginia Tech
Antoine Cason SR Arizona
Dwight Lowery SR San Jose State

DICK BUTKUS AWARD

(Outstanding Linebacker)

Dan Connor SR Penn State
Keith Rivers SR USC
James Laurinaitis JR Ohio State
Brian Cushing JR USC
Xavier Adibi SR Virginia Tech
Jasper Brinkley SR South Carolina
Brian Toal SR Boston College
Geno Hayes JR Florida State
Vince Hall SR Virginia Tech
Ali Highsmith SR LSU
Shawn Crable SR Michigan
Brandon Spikes SO Florida
Anthony Felder JR California
Jerod Mayo JR Tennessee
Erin Henderson JR Maryland
Philip Wheeler SR Georgia Tech
Robert Killebrew SR Texas
Sean Lee JR Penn State
Steve Davis JR Minnesota
Jonathan Goff SR Vanderbilt
J Leman SR Illinois
Corey McKeon SR Nebraska
Rey Maualuga JR USC
Rashad Bobino JR Texas
Curtis Lofton JR Oklahoma
Antonio Clay JR Clemson
Sergio Kindle SO Texas
Prince Hall SO Alabama
Derek Nicholson JR Florida State
Malik Jackson SR Louisville
Bo Ruud SR Nebraska
Nelson Coleman SR Tulsa

THORPE AWARD

(Defensive back)

Aqib Talib JR Kansas
Jonathan Hefney SR Tennessee
Kenny Phillips JR Miami
DeJuan Tribble SR Boston College
Brandon Flowers JR Virginia Tech
Michael Hamlin JR Clemson
Antoine Cason SR Arizona
Dwight Lowery SR San Jose State
Victor Harris JR Virginia Tech
Quintin Demps SR UTEP
Terrell Thomas SR USC
Chevis Jackson SR LSU
Ambrose Wooden SR Notre Dame
Justin King JR Penn State
Randy Phillips JR Miami
Kevin Thomas JR USC
Alphonso Smith JR Wake Forest
Malcolm Jenkins JR Ohio State
Mike Jenkins SR South Florida
Zackary Bowman SR Nebraska
Jonathan Zenon SR LSU
Marcus Walker SR Oklahoma
Wopamo Osaisai JR Stanford
Tierre Green SR Nebraska
Dennis Keyes SR UCLA
Roger Williams SR Florida State
Jamie Silva SR Boston College

LOU GROZA AWARD

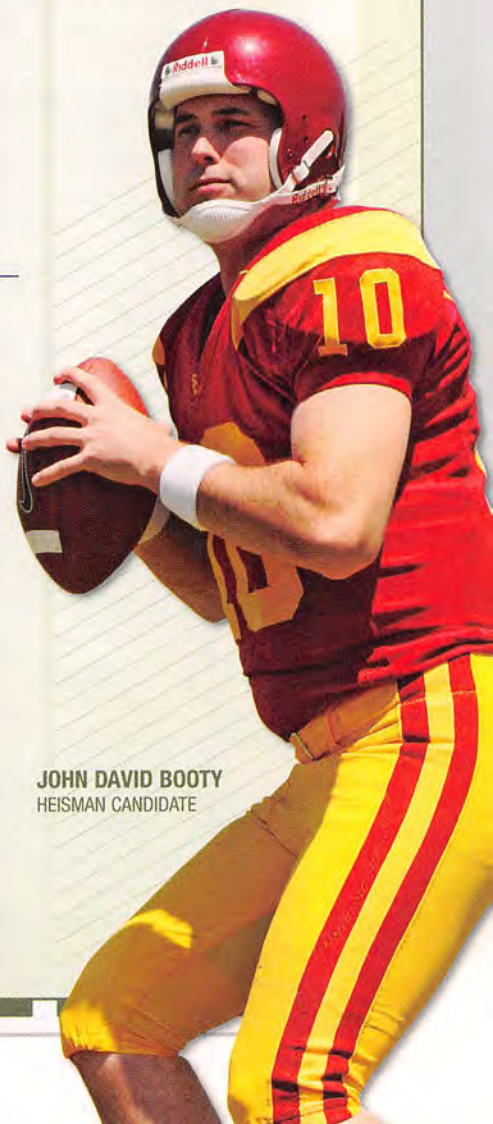
(Outstanding Kicker)

Sam Swank JR Wake Forest
Art Carmody SR Louisville
Jeremy Ito SR Rutgers
Taylor Mehlhaff SR Wisconsin
Chris Nendick SR Northern Illinois
Brandon Coutu SR Georgia
Patrick Shadle JR Syracuse
Alexis Serna SR Oregon State
Jason Reda SR Illinois
Sergio Aguayo SR UNLV
Garrett Hartley SR Oklahoma
Jamie Christensen SR Alabama
Travis Bell SR Georgia Tech

RAY GUY AWARD

(Outstanding Punter)

Durant Brooks SR Georgia Tech
Britton Colquitt JR Tennessee
Ken DeBauche SR Wisconsin
Ryan Succop JR South Carolina
A.J. Trapasso JR Ohio State
Aaron Perez JR UCLA
Jimmie Kaylor SR Colorado State
Dave Brytus JR Pittsburgh
Geoff Price SR Notre Dame
Chris Gould SR Virginia
Ryan Succop JR South Carolina
Zoltan Mesko JR Michigan
Chris Miller JR Ball State
Matt DiLallo SO Colorado



JOHN DAVID BOOTY
HEISMAN CANDIDATE

FACING: STEVE BEYER; THIS PAGE: RODGER M. WOOD

Street & Smith's

TOP 25

1 USC
2 WEST VIRGINIA
3 WISCONSIN
4 LSU
5 MICHIGAN
6 FLORIDA
7 OKLAHOMA
8 TEXAS
9 VIRGINIA TECH
10 LOUISVILLE
11 CALIFORNIA
12 ARKANSAS
13 PENN STATE
14 AUBURN
15 OHIO STATE
16 GEORGIA
17 UCLA
18 MISSOURI
19 RUTGERS
20 NEBRASKA
21 TENNESSEE
22 CLEMSON
23 TCU
24 OREGON STATE
25 BOISE STATE

SEEKING THE NEXT DAVID

With Boise State pioneering the way, college football fans now look for another BCS underdog to cheer—and may just find it deep in the heart of Texas.

By Scott Rabalais
The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate

As New Year's Day faded into the first night of 2007, the controversy and divisiveness over the Bowl Championship Series faded while a nation sat enthralled watching Boise State battle Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl.

It was a game for the ages. Oklahoma rallied from an 18-point third-quarter deficit to take a 35-28 lead with 1:02 left in the game. Boise State forced overtime with a 50-yard hook-and-lateral on a fourth-down play as just seven seconds remained on the clock. The Sooners scored first in overtime and kicked an extra point. The Broncos answered with a receiver option pass for a touchdown and—how retro was this?—a winning two-point conversion on a Statue of Liberty run play by tailback Ian Johnson.

Suddenly, the talk went from whether the former 12-0 Boise State deserved to be in a BCS bowl game to whether the 13-0 Broncos shouldn't have been in the BCS Championship Game in that same University of Phoenix Stadium a week later.

That game, compared with the Fiesta Bowl, was certainly anticlimactic. Florida romped to a dominating 41-14 rout of previously top-rated Ohio State in a non-contest that

IAN JOHNSON, RB *Boise St.*

TOP TO BOTTOM: AGGIE SKIRBALL / WIRE IMAGE.COM; MAX SIMBRON / US PRESSWIRE

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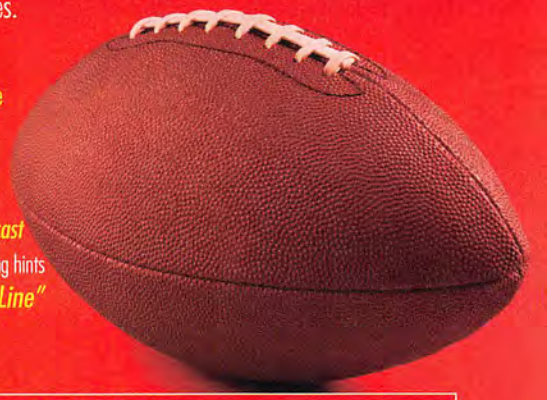

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didn't have even half the drama of the Fiesta Bowl.

Nor did it have much of a shelf life outside of Florida or Ohio. Instead, the buzz continued to be about Boise State, and how the little school with the home blue turf from deep in the Rockies could hurl a stone and slay one of college football's Goliaths—and whether it could it happen again.

Chris Petersen, who had a dream first season as Boise State's coach, doesn't see the many miles between a Boise State and an Oklahoma that others may.

"Our guys don't think of themselves as a mid-major program," says Petersen, who inherited the job (he was formerly the Broncos' offensive coordinator) when Dan Hawkins went off to Colorado. "They've won a lot of big games the last seven years—the bigger the game, the harder they seem to play.

"We're not going out under any illusions of trying to carry the flag for a bunch of different programs. We just try to keep climbing."

The path to the top was made clearer because of expansion in the BCS system. Last season marked the first year of the BCS Championship Game, which subsequently opened up two more slots in the existing four BCS bowls: the Fiesta, Rose, Sugar and Orange.

To create more access for schools that aren't in the six BCS conferences (ACC, Big 12, Big East, Big Ten, Pac-10 and SEC) or don't happen to be Notre Dame, qualifying rules were changed. Non-BCS teams can now gain entry if they finish in the top 12 in the final BCS standings (Boise State was comfortably in at No. 8) or rank among the final BCS top 16 and also in front of a BCS conference champion.

SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, who also serves as BCS coordinator for the 2006 and 2007 seasons, rated the grand experiment a success.

"When we added the fifth bowl and increased access, it was good for college football," Slive says. "It provided some additional opportunities. Boise State had a very fine football team, they took advantage of it and it was one of the great bowl games. I think it added something to the postseason excitement and drama."

AARON BROWN, RB *TCU*

> **"One thing we have to do as a football team—and we've done a good job of it the last five or six years—is to remember that EACH GAME COUNTS AS ONE. You get more emotional for some, but you have to find out the way to win the other ones."**

GARY PATTERSON COACH, *TCU*

However, Boise State wasn't the first non-BCS school to break through. Two seasons earlier, Utah went to the Fiesta Bowl and came away with a 35-7 victory over Pittsburgh to cap a 12-0 season.

But the Utes' victory, while impressive, didn't capture the nation's imagination as much as Boise State's daring heroics. Now you can almost picture college football fans scanning the national landscape, saying, "Go on, give us another one."

Predicting who the next Boise State will be could well become the next national parlor game. Fairly enough, you have to start with the Broncos themselves. But Petersen, like any coach, doesn't want to hear it.

"Our mission statement isn't different," he says. "One of the reasons I had so much respect for the team last year is after we beat Oregon State (42-14 on Sept. 7), everyone in town started talking BCS games.

"We had 10 games left to play. Our players focused on one game at a time. It's all about doing your best week-in and week-out and not getting distracted."

Petersen's mantra is older than the Statue of Liberty play itself. But it works just as well for TCU Coach Gary Patterson.

Patterson's Horned Frogs have gone 22-3 the last two seasons, including an 11-2 mark in 2006 that left TCU ranked No. 21 in the final *USA Today* coaches' poll. The Horned Frogs have the talent and schedule (early games with Baylor and Texas) to build a strong case as the trendy pick for this year's BCS sleeper bid.

But Patterson knows his team won't get there if it gets caught up in the preseason hype.

"With Baylor and Texas starting off, if we go 1-1, they'll be counting us out already," Patterson says. "One thing we have to do as a football team—and we've done a good job of it the last five or six years—is to remember that each game counts as one. You get more emotional for some, but you have to find out the way to win the other ones."

If a team like the Broncos or Horned Frogs wins them all this season, can it expect to get into the BCS Championship Game, or are perceptions about the non-BCS conferences likely to keep it ranked too low in the polls? Wouldn't the non-BCS schools benefit more from a playoff?

"We have no control over that," Petersen says. "Whether we won the national championship or not, we went 13-0 and did the best we could. Our kids beat everyone in front of us."

"I like the system the way it is," Peterson adds. "I grew up with the bowl system. That many teams go to bowls and get a win and feel good about themselves going into the next year is a very important thing."

So this season, look for a lot of college football fans to start the season rooting for their favorite teams—while also keeping a lookout for the next feel-good story from a non-BCS conference.

(L TO R): JAMES D. SMITH / ICON SMI (2)

COTTON-PICKING NEW HOME

After years of speculation, ambition finally trumped tradition for the Cotton Bowl.

The 71-year-old postseason classic announced in February it will be moving from its aging stadium of the same name near downtown Dallas to the Cowboys' glittering new $1 billion showplace in suburban Arlington. The first Cotton Bowl will kick off there in January 2010.

The decision to change locations could help the Cotton Bowl move back closer to the national spotlight. The old stadium, and the always-significant potential for bad weather, helped keep the Cotton out of the BCS mix. The new facility will have a hole in the roof similar to the one at Texas Stadium—but one that can be enclosed by a state-of-the-art retractable cover. The annual Texas-Oklahoma game will remain at the original Cotton Bowl stadium through at least 2015.

WHEN A BCS TITLE GAME ISN'T ENOUGH

With the Gators winning every NCAA title in sight these days, you would think University of Florida President Bernie Machen would be happy with the status quo.

In basketball, yes.

Football, no.

Machen wants a playoff, though which kind he isn't advocating just yet. Whether it be a plus-one format, final four or an eight- or 16-team playoff, Machen believes it's best left to majority rule. That is, as long as the majority can agree a change is needed. And in the SEC, Machen believes he has that.

"It will take a conference like ours to get this moving in the right direction," he says.

SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, also the BCS coordinator, isn't advocating any particular path but does want to encourage talk about future postseason plans.

"I don't know if there's a perfect solution," Slive says. "We've had some great games, some years with significant controversy and some years with no controversy. In basketball, we pick 65 teams and this year we had a significant amount of controversy [for the NCAA Tournament selection]—you can't get away from that.

"We need to figure out what's best for college football. How do we protect the regular season? In the SEC, we have eight bowls and two-thirds of our teams can go out and have a postseason experience. We're interested in keeping that. Some [conferences] have championship games that are important. We have academic and calendar issues, and we're trying to keep football a one-semester sport. All of those are issues that need to be examined in terms of what is the appropriate format."

This season, of course, the only change will be the site of the BCS Championship Game. It moves to New Orleans' Superdome from Glendale, Ariz., followed by stops in Miami (2009) and Pasadena, Calif. (2010).

> "IT WILL TAKE A CONFERENCE LIKE OURS TO GET THIS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION"
>
> BERNIE MACHEN, FLORIDA PRESIDENT

REWRITING THE RULES ... AGAIN

New for 2007: more football. No, the NCAA isn't lengthening the regular season from 12 to 13 games—yet. But it has decided to throw out many of the clock-cutting measures that were adopted before the 2006 season.

Under last season's rules, the clock started when the ball was kicked on kickoffs instead of when it was touched, and also as soon as the ball was made ready for play after a change of possession instead of on the first snap of a drive.

The rules met their intentions. They did shorten games to an average of three hours and seven minutes, down about 14 minutes from 2005. But coaches were widely critical because the new clock rules eliminated about 13 plays per game, resulting in an average of some 66 yards lost and five less points per contest.

Those regulations have been replaced by what will hopefully be more acceptable timesaving measures:

- Limiting reviews during instant replay to a maximum of two minutes.
- Cutting the length of timeouts from 1:25 to 55 seconds.
- Trimming the 25-second play clock to 15 seconds following TV timeouts.
- Starting the play clock on free kicks immediately after an official hands the kicker the ball.
- Avoiding re-kicks by assessing penalties against the kicking team on kickoffs at the end of the runback.

Two other changes being phased in over the next two seasons will make college football more closely resemble the NFL. Starting this fall, kickoffs will be from the 30-yard line instead of the 35. And in 2008, the NCAA will implement a 40-second play clock that starts when the previous play is blown dead, as in the NFL. The current 25-second play clock begins when the ball is placed ready for play.

WHERE DOES YOUR TEAM LIVE?

You may not have noticed it last December during the holiday shopping and bowl rush, but the NCAA's new names for Division I-A and I-AA football went into effect for this season.

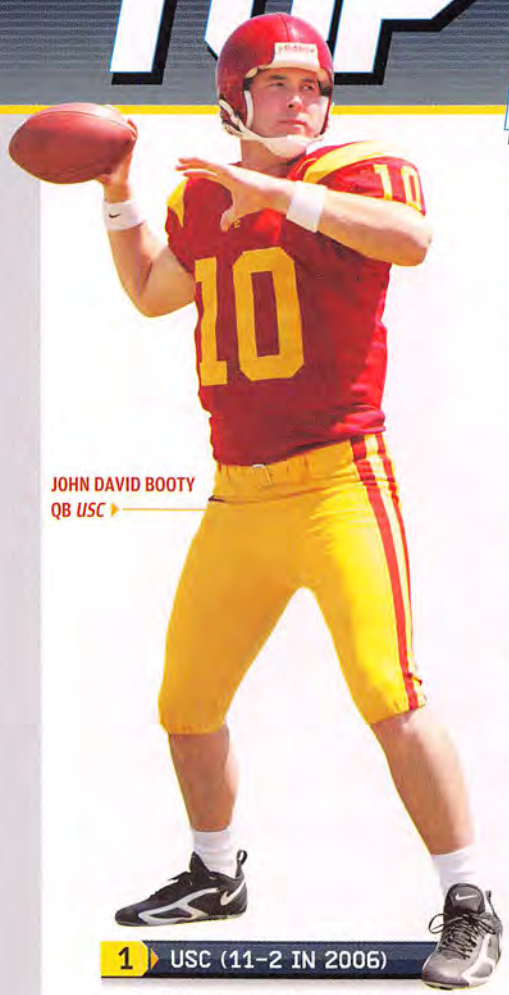
From now on, Division I-A is now the Football Bowl Subdivision. Division I-AA is now the Football Championship Subdivision, with its 16-team playoff culminating in the Division I football championship.

The reasons behind the semantics were complaints and frustration from I-AA schools that were often labeled as small-time compared to their BCS brethren. This is taking place even though a school like Rice (FBS) has about 3,000 students, compared with Texas State (FCS), where the enrollment is around 27,100 students.

Will this stop fans and media from referring to schools as I-A or I-AA, or Division I (in reference to Football Bowl Subdivision) schools and Division II for the rest? Probably not, but the NCAA is hoping to guilt fans into using the new terms.

CLOCKWISE: DALLAS COWBOYS / HKS; PHIL SANDLIN / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; JAMES D. SMITH / ICON SMI

2007 Street & Smith's TOP 25



JOHN DAVID BOOTY
QB *USC*

PATRICK WHITE, QB *West Virginia*

1 USC (11-2 IN 2006)

If the Trojans keep this up, Coach Pete Carroll is going to get his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Every season, USC loses great talents—this year it's receivers Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith—but still deserves rankings like this because Carroll brings in the nation's best recruits. Sure, the Trojans choked away a spot in the inaugural BCS Championship Game with that loss to UCLA, but quarterback John David Booty and company will be able to rely on a quicksilver defense that returns 10 starters. Southern Cal fans had to cancel their reservations for Phoenix last January, but they should book early this season for New Orleans.

2 WEST VIRGINIA (11-2)

When Rich Rodriguez turned down the Alabama coaching job, one of his reasons had to be the wealth of talent he has returning to Morgantown. With a quarterback like Patrick White and a running back like Steve Slaton, along with another favorable schedule, the Mountaineers look like a prime candidate to make a national-championship run.

3 WISCONSIN (12-1)

The Badgers' winningest season ever didn't earn them a Big Ten title or even a Rose Bowl berth. This year, the schedule gets tougher with games at Ohio State and Penn State, along with a home matchup with Michigan, but Wisconsin isn't going away, either. Eighteen starters return, led by tailback P.J. Hill (1,569 yards, 15 TDs), the 2006 National Freshman of the Year.

4 LSU (11-2)

Last year, a brutal road schedule separated the Tigers (barely) from the national title game. But this season, Florida, Auburn, Arkansas and Virginia Tech all come to LSU. Quarterback JaMarcus Russell bolted early for the NFL, but Matt Flynn is a capable fifth-year senior. The defense, led by All-America defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey, could be the nation's best if LSU finds a free safety and an defensive end.

5 MICHIGAN (11-2)

Yes, the Wolverines ended with the downer of two straight losses to Ohio State and USC, but what Michigan did to start 11-0 is worth remembering. The defense must be completely rebuilt, but there should be shootouts aplenty with the return of offensive talents in QB Chad Henne, tailback Mike Hart and wideout Mario Manningham.

6 FLORIDA (13-1)

Coach Urban Meyer's spread offense got the glory last year, but it was defense that led Florida to the national championship. That unit lost nine starters, however, so more of the load now shifts to the offense. The true test will be how well QB Tim Tebow can run the show full-time. The elusive and versatile Percy Harvin will also have to shine even more.

7 OKLAHOMA (11-3)

Once the shock and awe of their Fiesta Bowl loss to Boise State wore off, the Sooners had to realize one important thing: They are good enough to win the Big 12 and do it again. Yes, tailback Adrian Peterson and QB Paul Thompson are gone, but there is strength in players like running back Allen Patrick and safety Reggie Smith.

8 TEXAS (10-3)

Three losses and a short trip down I-35 to the Alamo Bowl had to qualify for a bit of a disappointment in Austin. That's the level to which the Texas program has risen under Coach Mack Brown. But there is reason to dream big again, especially with QB Colt McCoy and most of a talented offense coming back.

9 VIRGINIA TECH (10-3)

The Hokies look like the class of the ACC with QB Sean Glennon (2,191 passing yards, 11 TDs) and running back Branden Ore (1,137 rushing yards, 16 TDs) returning, along with eight defensive starters, led by all-conference linebacker Vince Hall. A Sept. 8 matchup at LSU could be a BCS title-elimination game.

10 LOUISVILLE (12-1)

Cardinals QB Brian Brohm turned down the lure of NFL megabucks; Coach Bobby Petrino did not, leaving for the Atlanta Falcons. Enter new Coach Steve Kragthorpe from Tulsa, who inherits both a Heisman-candidate quarterback and a national-championship contender. Well, national-championship-contending offense, anyway. The defense needs work.

11 CALIFORNIA (10-3)

Quarterback Nate Longshore has come of age in Coach Jeff Tedford's offense, which could mean a nasty, throbbing headache for USC and the rest of the Pac-10. With Marshawn Lynch gone, the bulk of the ball-carrying duties fall to Justin Forsett (626 yards, 4 TDs). Linebacker Zack Follett will lead the defense.

12 ARKANSAS (10-4)

No team is loaded with more potential and potential for disaster than Arkansas. The Razorbacks possess the nation's best backfield tandem in Darren McFadden and Felix Jones,

(L TO R): RODGER M. WOOD; DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

but the program went into total meltdown after last season. Both QB Mitch Mustain and wideout Damian Williams transferred to USC, while Offensive Coordinator Gus Malzahn defected to Tulsa for an assistant's job.

13 PENN STATE (9-4)

An upset win over Tennessee in the Outback Bowl gave notice that the Nittany Lions will be a tough out in 2007. Quarterback Anthony Morelli is one of eight starters back on offense. The defense lost second-round NFL draft pick Paul Posluszny, but another All-America linebacker, Dan Connor, returns, along with cornerback Justin King and safety Anthony Scirrotto.

14 AUBURN (11-2)

The Tigers have become a perennial SEC power, but they enter 2007 with holes to fill on the offensive line and at running back. Quarterback Brandon Cox must continue his maturation process, but should be able to count on a stout defense led by tackle Sen'Derrick Marks and safety Aairon Savage. Both were Freshman All-Americans last season.

15 OHIO STATE (12-1)

The Buckeyes' problem is similar to a year ago, just in reverse. In 2006, Ohio State had to restore a ton of defensive talent. This year, it's about replacing Heisman-winning QB Troy Smith, versatile receiver Ted Ginn Jr. and other offensive stars. The Buckeyes are in reload mode these days, so expecting a repeat of last season would be unfair.

16 GEORGIA (9-4)

Coach Mark Richt saw the holes on this year's team (especially on defense, with just four returning starters) and told Recruiting Coordinator Rodney Garner, "Drop and give me 20!" Georgia signed five military-school players in a typically top-notch class. The offense is in good hands with QB Matthew Stafford and running back Kregg Lumpkin.

17 UCLA (7-6)

The Bruins served notice in a win over USC last November that there is another team to reckon with in southern California besides, well, Southern California. A QB duel between Trojan-slayer Patrick Cowan and Ben Olson must shake out for UCLA to get going. Justin Hickman is a big loss on defense, but he's the only one. Bruce Davis is an All-America defensive end who just needs to find consistency.

18 MISSOURI (8-5)

How good can QB Chase Daniel and the Tigers be? Just take a look at Missouri's annual Black-and-Gold Game, during which the offense put up 550 total yards and 72 points. Coach Gary Pinkel's spread assault fits Daniel perfectly, and the junior has two great targets in tight ends Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman. The Big 12 North could be decided against Nebraska, but the Tigers will have home-field advantage.

19 RUTGERS (11-2)

College football's feel-good story of 2006 is back for a sequel. Coach Greg Schiano shunned Miami to stay in New Jersey. The man must have his reasons. The Scarlet Knights have to find a couple answers on defense, but few teams will have the solution for tailback Ray Rice, a legit Heisman contender who will keep Rutgers on the radar.

20 NEBRASKA (9-5)

The Cornhuskers aren't ready for global domination again just yet, but Lincoln is alive with the tingle of optimistic anticipation. It all starts with QB Sam Keller, who possesses a talented arm that was formerly flinging passes for Arizona State. The defensive front has holes, but anything less than a return to the Big 12 title game would be a disappointment.

21 TENNESSEE (9-4)

The Volunteers clawed back to respectability and a Jan. 1 bowl last season, but QB Erik Ainge must recover fully from a spring MCL injury or Tennessee will once again be in trouble. The running game is a three-headed beast with LaMarcus Coker, Montario Hardesty and Arian Foster. Punter Britton Colquitt (44.9-yard average in 2006) is one of the nation's best.

22 CLEMSON (8-5)

Death Valley boasts one of the nation's top rushing duos in James Davis and C.J. Spiller, who wrecked opposing defenses for more than 2,100 yards last year. Who hands the ball off to the tailbacks is a question, as Cullen Harper has the edge coming out of spring. Backed by a strong returning defense (seven total), this could be the year the Tigers break their 16-year ACC title drought.

23 TCU (11-2)

Could TCU be the next Boise State? Riding an eight-game winning streak, the Horned Frogs have built the foundation for more on a defense that returns nine starters (led by defensive ends Tommy Blake and Chase Ortiz) from the nation's No. 2 unit. Replacing QB Jeff Ballard (19-2 as a starter) is the key, as Marcus Jackson and Andy Dalton will battle for signal-calling duties.

24 OREGON STATE (10-4)

With 18 returning back, the Beavers can rightly dream big of a shot at a BCS bowl. The offense could fly behind new QB Sean Canfield and talents like running back Yvenson Bernard and wide receiver Sammie Stroughter if the offensive line improves. Road games at California (Oct. 13) and USC (Nov. 3) could decide how good Oregon State's season will be.

25 BOISE STATE (13-0)

Maybe we're just hoping the Broncos will be good again so we can see what trick plays Coach Chris Petersen will pull this time. This is no shooting-star program, however, as the Broncos have averaged 11-plus wins over the last five years. The defense must replace linebacker Korey Hall. Taylor Tharp takes over at QB for Jared Zabransky, but can he run the Statue of Liberty?

JAMES DAVIS, RB *Clemson*

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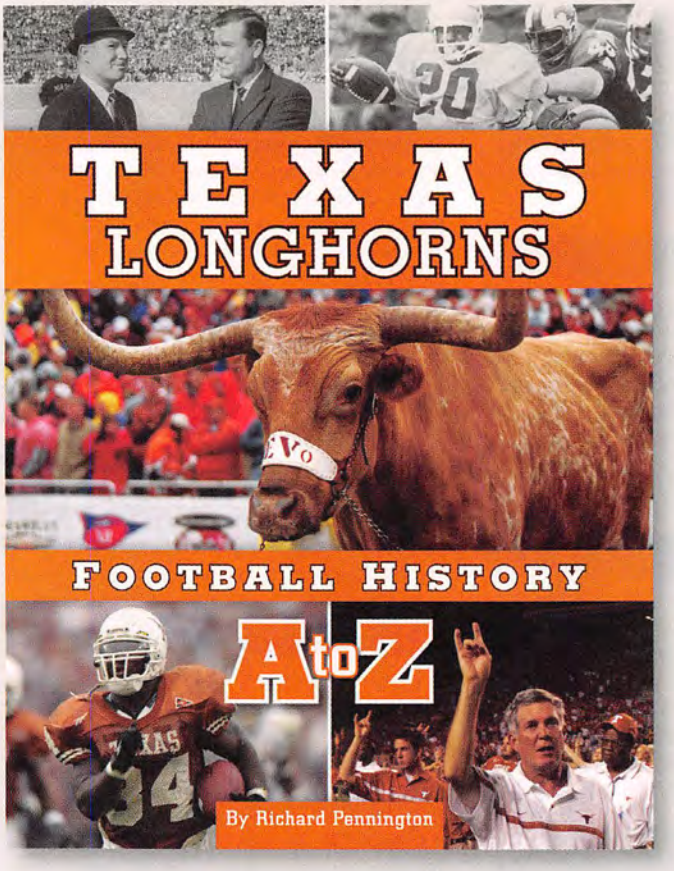

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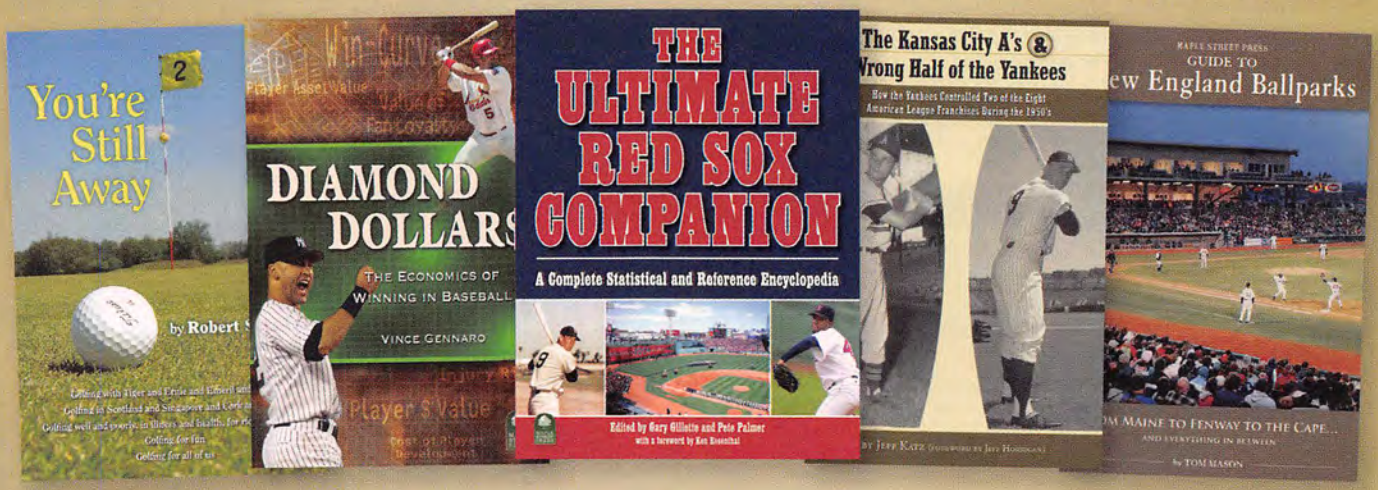

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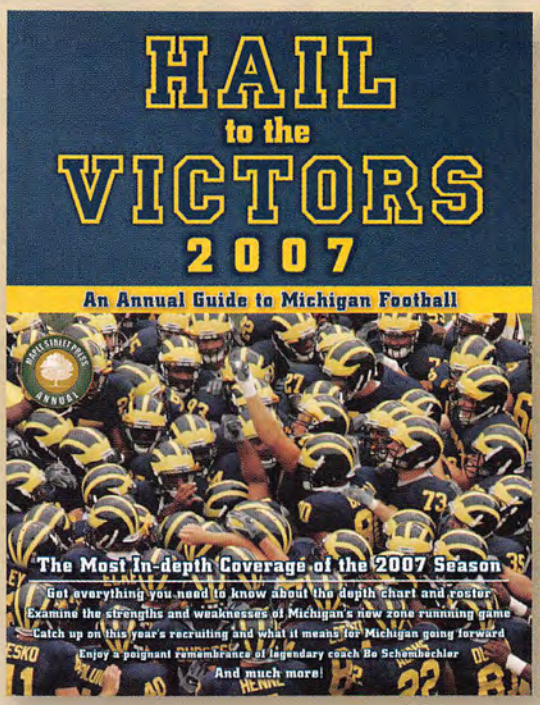

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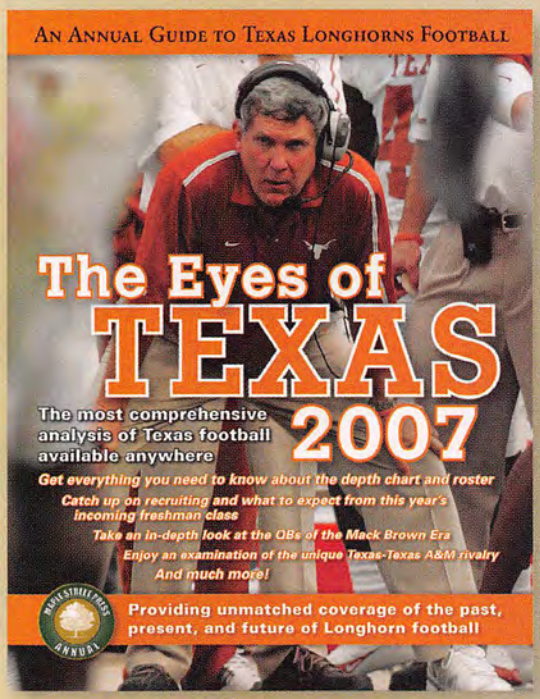

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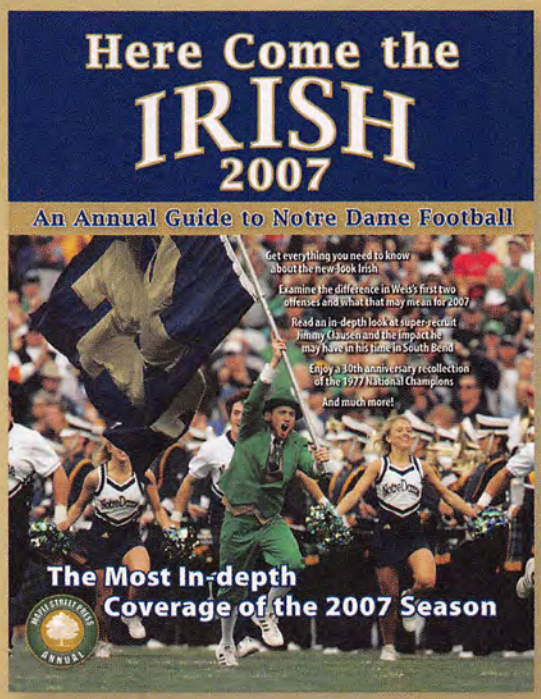

Edited by James Walsh
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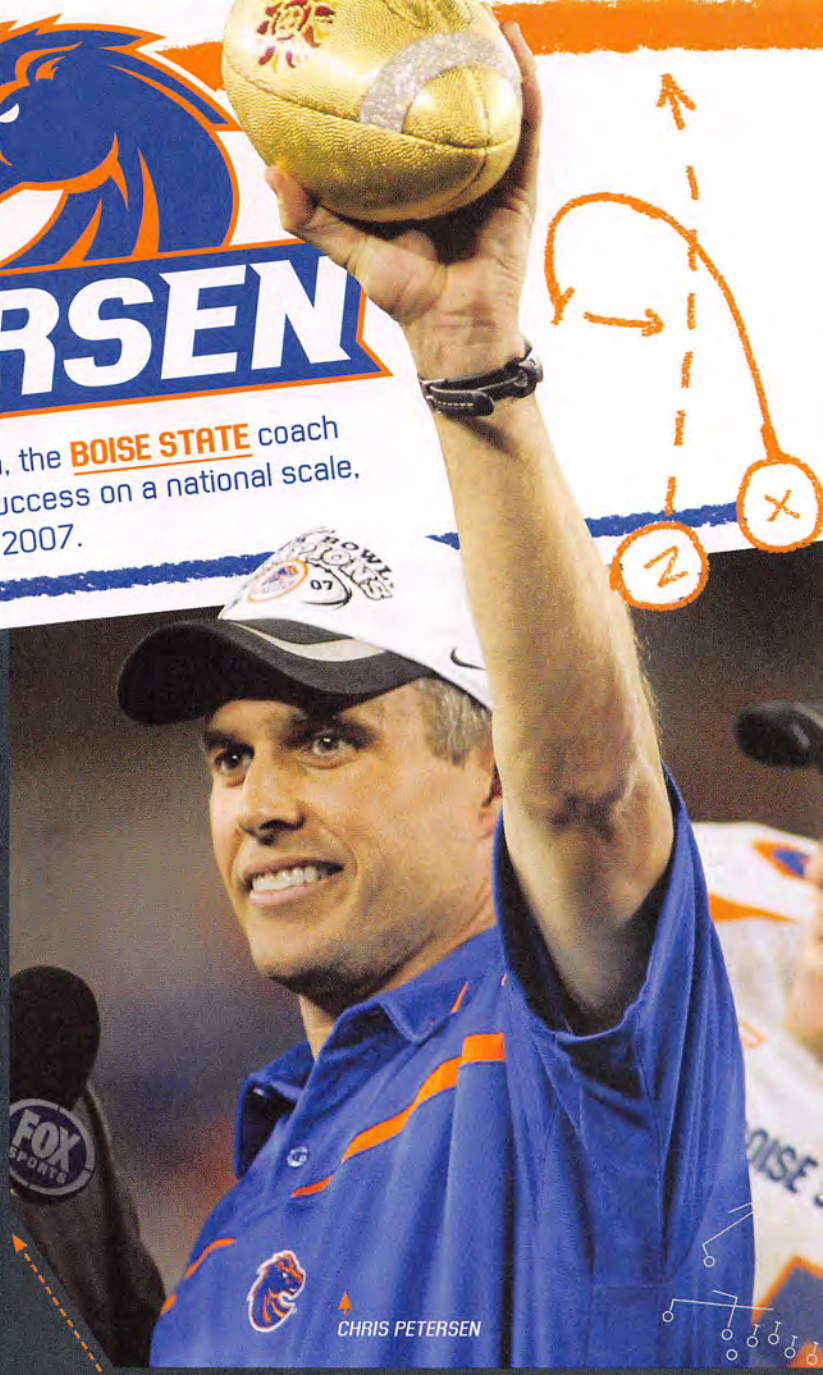
CHRIS PETERSEN

After a storybook first season, the **BOISE STATE** coach discusses trying to sustain success on a national scale, and his new bag of tricks for 2007.



CHRIS PETERSEN

RICK SCUTERI / US PRESSWIRE

By Matt McKenzie
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

For years, Boise State was simply thought of as "that team from Idaho with the Smurf-blue Turf." But in a matter of 10 minutes during last season's Fiesta Bowl, all that changed. Heading into the matchup with Oklahoma, many observers lauded the Broncos for becoming the first "true mid-major" (with apologies to Utah) to play in a BCS game. No one, however, gave them much of a chance against a then-11-2 powerhouse Sooners team.

And despite being ahead most of the game, Boise State was all but written off after Oklahoma scored 15 unanswered points in 24 seconds to take a 35-28 lead with just over a minute to play. What happened next will be remembered in college football history for years to come.

Facing fourth-and-18 at midfield with 18 seconds left, Broncos quarterback Jared Zabransky threw a 15-yard pass to receiver Drisan James, who lateraled the ball to wide receiver Jerard Rabb, and Rabb raced the other 35 yards to the end zone for the game-tying touchdown.

During overtime, after Sooners running back Adrian Peterson scored on the first play, Boise State again faced a fourth-down situation, and again used deception to prevail. Zabransky went into motion, and the ball was snapped to receiver Vinny Perretta, who rolled right and tossed a six-yard score to tight end Derek Schouman. Now down one, the Broncos elected to go for the win, and boldly called for "Statue."

In a play better designed for sandlot football, Zabransky took the snap, faked a throw to his right and in the same motion, moved the ball behind his back to running back Ian Johnson, who scampered to his left untouched into the end zone. With just three plays, the Broncos had shocked the world and captivated a nation of college football fans.

Behind all of those tricks and gadgets was Chris Petersen, who, in his first year as head coach, led the Broncos to a 12-0 record, their fifth straight WAC title and first BCS bowl championship. Boise State also finished fifth overall in the national polls, the team's highest ranking in its 39-year football history.

Before taking over for Dan Hawkins (who left to coach Colorado), Petersen was Boise State's offensive coordinator from 2001-05. His biggest success came with the quarterbacks, as Ryan Dinwiddie (2001-03) is currently the NCAA's career passing efficiency leader (168.19 rating) and Zabransky graduated with more than 9,000 yards of total offense, along with 58 TDs.

In the offseason, the 42-year-old former UC Davis quarterback signed a new five-year, $4.25 million contract, the highest ever for a Boise State coach. The deal could be more lucrative if the Broncos win 12 or more games (an extra $161,500) and play in another BCS matchup ($100,000). That's quite a step up from his original contract, which was $2.5 million over five years.

Right after finishing up spring practice with the Broncos, Petersen spoke with *Street & Smith's* Staff Writer Matt McKenzie on various subjects, including his and the team's newfound popularity; the suddenly shrinking gap between so-called BCS and non-BCS schools; and whom he'd choose to play him in a movie role.

S&S: What's been the biggest change for you since the Fiesta Bowl ended and right now?

PETERSEN: There seems to be more demands on my time for non-football stuff, different speaking engagements here and there. Last year, I was new to the job, and I felt like at times I was just running around getting nothing done. But I realized when you're not in football season, there's a lot more stuff that you need to attend to.

S&S: Even though you broke through the mold, is there still a need for a college football playoff?

PETERSEN: That's obviously the million-dollar question. You know, I grew up watching college football and bowl games and have taken part in coaching bowl games too, so I like how it is right now. But is there a need to try and hold a small playoff to decide the national championship? Probably. It's probably coming. But I don't have a problem with how it's set up right now. The debate and arguing over all of it, that's part of the beauty of college football.

S&S: How have you been able to attract BCS-caliber athletes to Boise?

PETERSEN: One thing we've done here is get the right players for us and our system. We're not trying to convince anyone to come here and sell them on Boise State. We really want to point out what makes us different, and how much work is going to be involved here. And the fit has been good both ways. We're all about the things we try to educate the players on and preach day-in and day-out.

S&S: What is your recruiting approach and what can other non-BCS schools learn from it?

PETERSEN: When Coach (Dan) Hawkins was here, he'd have schools come in and ask, "What are you doing here?" But it's not one thing. It never is. If it was, everyone would be doing it. For us, it's a collection and combination of how we do things in order to push our players to be the best.

S&S: Talk about the decision to go for two at the end of the Fiesta Bowl. Was there ever any doubt in your mind to send it to another overtime?

PETERSEN: Well, when we scored at the very end (of regulation), there was talk of going for two right there since we had the momentum back. But we decided to wait it out and head to overtime. Then as soon as Adrian Peterson scored (on Oklahoma's first overtime play), I knew we were going to go for two when we scored. Oklahoma was coming on strong, and they're a very physical team.

You know, playing a team like Oklahoma, they're going to make a run at you. In some ways it was a little bit predictable, although I don't think anyone would predict that we'd throw an interception with just a minute left. But you give a lot of credit to both teams; they were battling and not giving in and that's what you like to see as a college football coach.

S&S: How confident were you and the staff that the hook-and-lateral and the Statue of Liberty plays would work against Oklahoma?

PETERSEN: As soon as we got sacked (with less than a minute left), the time became a huge factor. It was second and 20ish, and (Offensive Coordinator) Brian Harsin said if we get to fourth down, we're probably going to use a play we haven't had to use in five years. We only practice (the hook-and-lateral) on Fridays, and we had never scored, only came close just once. But the kids love to practice those kinds of plays … and we were very fortunate that play worked like it did.

On "Statue," we actually tried to use that play along with the halfback pass (that Boise State scored the TD with in overtime) earlier in the game and it just didn't work out. But those were nice to have in your back pocket. We never had "Statue" as a two-point play, but knew then it would be a good option to use, because it adds deception and we were giving it to one of our best players. You could see how (the Sooners) were lined up in their formation, that it was going to work. Unless we blatantly missed a block, we were in good shape.

S&S: Will there be a whole new stash of trick plays this season?

PETERSEN: I think so, but maybe not as much as last year. We've always kind of been wide-open and explosive; trick plays are only a small part of it. Kids like to practice them. If we think there's a point where it'll work, well, then we'll run them. But that's not what we're all about at Boise State. We're about running the football and playing solid defense—that's what we try to hang our hat on. You know, the expectations here are always high. Two seasons ago, we were 9-4, but it sometimes felt like we were 4-9 because of the expectations. We always want to win games, and a lot of them.

S&S: What are the reasons for more parity in college football today?

PETERSEN: Well, one thing is the scholarship number. From the outside, 85 scholarships sound like a lot, but it's really not. You end up having guys with injuries, and then, from recruiting, some guys don't necessarily turn out the way you imagined them to. Also, the coaching at the high school levels has gotten so much better. Kids come in ready to do so much more than in the past. For colleges, we're also able to study the pros. Everyone has elevated their game.

S&S: What, in your mind, are the biggest differences in BCS and non-BCS schools and how have the gaps been shortened?

PETERSEN: The main thing is that it starts with money. Facilities and money. You look at BCS schools and see what they have and say, "Wow, that does make a difference." But when you think about our conference, the WAC, we won three out of four bowl games this past year. So the gap is closing and I think (it's) because there's a lot of good football players out there helping with their talent. But, you know, we don't see or think of ourselves as a non-BCS school. Coaches and players don't talk about it and we don't think in those terms; it's really only reporters that bring it up. If we play a Pac-10 or SEC school, those are not the thoughts we have. Everyone else wants to talk about that. We just like to think of ourselves as a successful football program.

IAN JOHNSON, RB

S&S: Do you ever give any thought to moving on from Boise State to a more visible Division I-A program, sort of like Urban Meyer did going from Utah to Florida?

PETERSEN: No, the only thought that crosses my mind is how Boise State is growing and changing. I'm standing in my office right now talking to you and watching the new press box being built. Those are the things getting people excited. As many games as we've won, there is room for improvement. There's always a thought of, "How can we get better?"

S&S: What are your thoughts about last season being made into a movie? (Five different Hollywood production companies have met with school officials to discuss securing story rights). Any casting ideas?

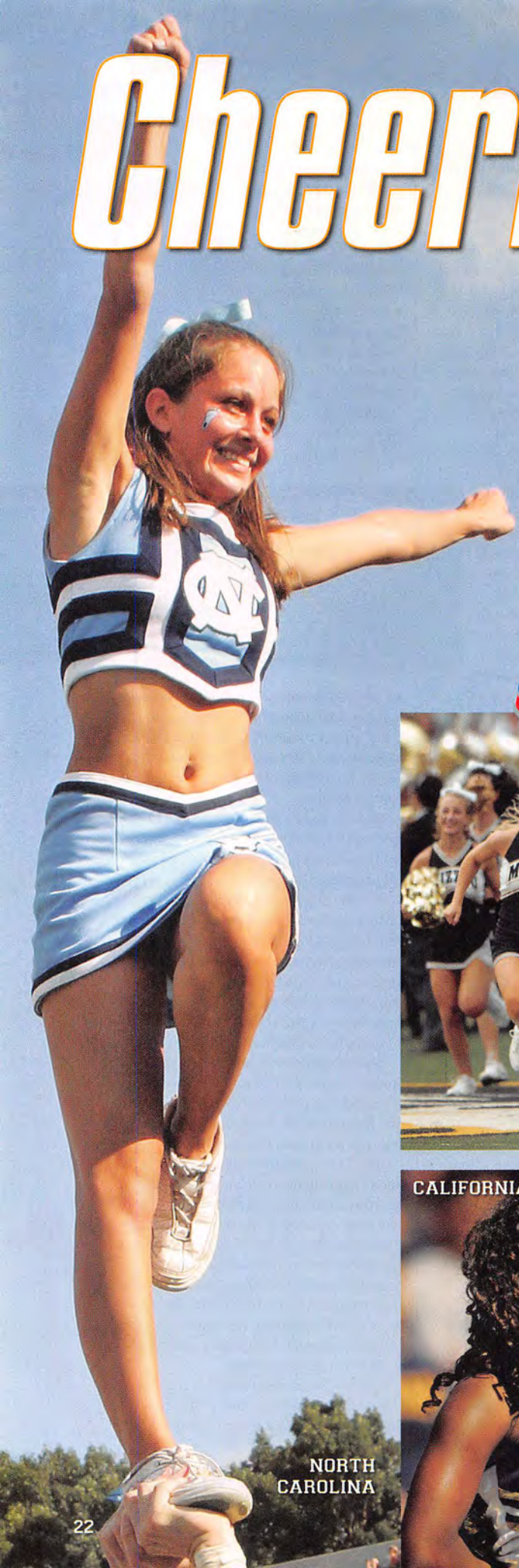
PETERSEN: Well, there are two things. First (there) is going to be a documentary made on last season, which will kind of be neat and give good exposure to the school. As for the Hollywood-type movie, I hadn't really thought about that, because it would probably happen down the road, which is good, because those type things can be kind of a distraction. So I really don't know (about casting). What's that football movie with Al Pacino as a coach?

S&S: "Any Given Sunday."

PETERSEN: Yeah, that's it. I've seen that twice. And that halftime speech Al Pacino does—if I could give a speech like that, I'd be a heck of a coach.

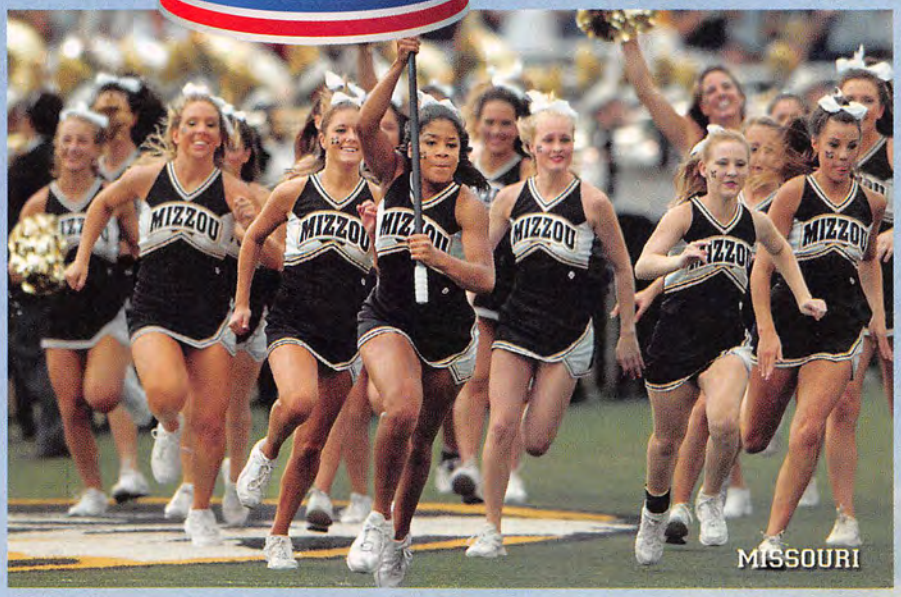
NICK DOAN / ICON SMI

Cheerleaders OF THE NCAA



NORTH CAROLINA

IOWA



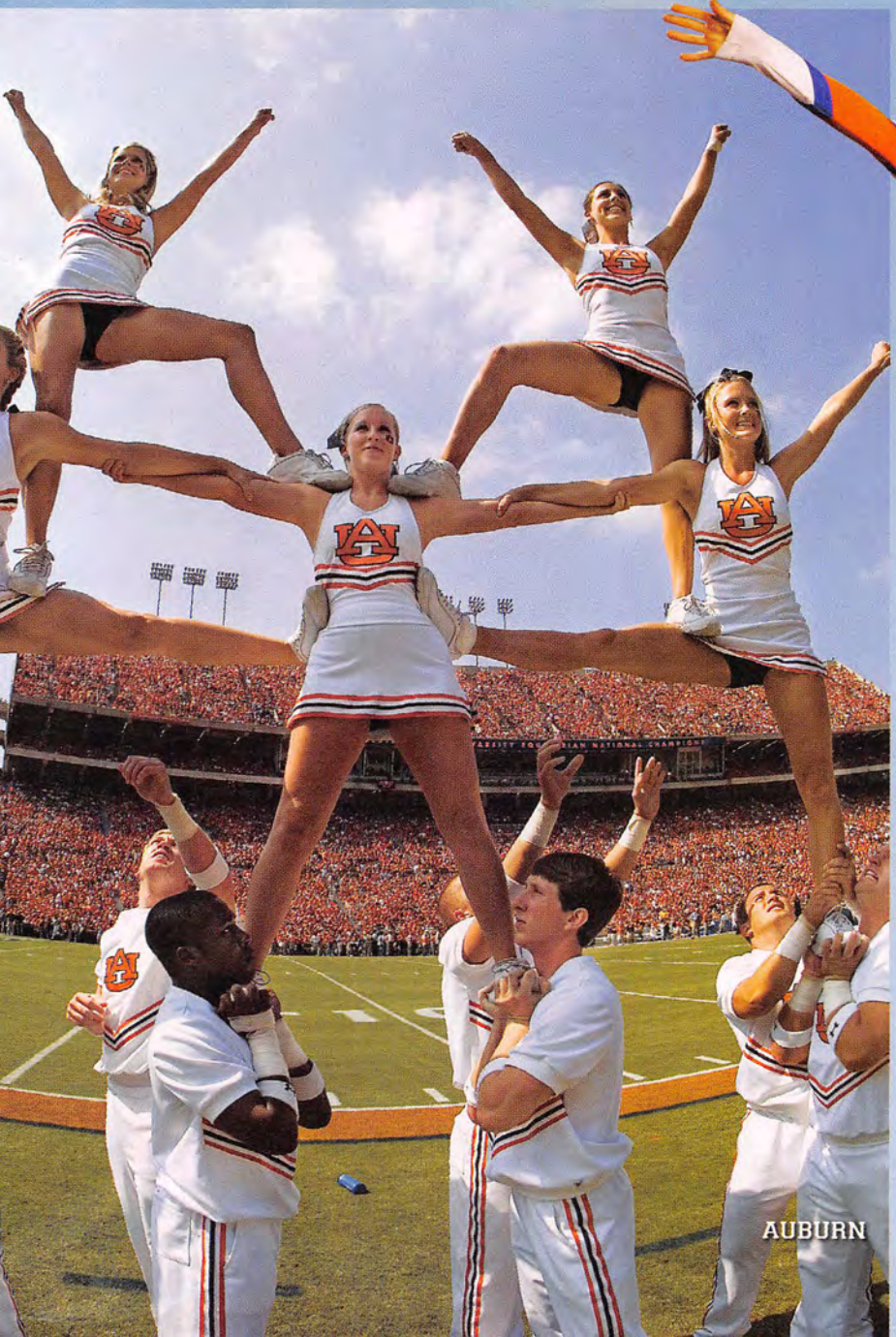
MISSOURI

CALIFORNIA

OKLAHOMA STATE

TEMPLE

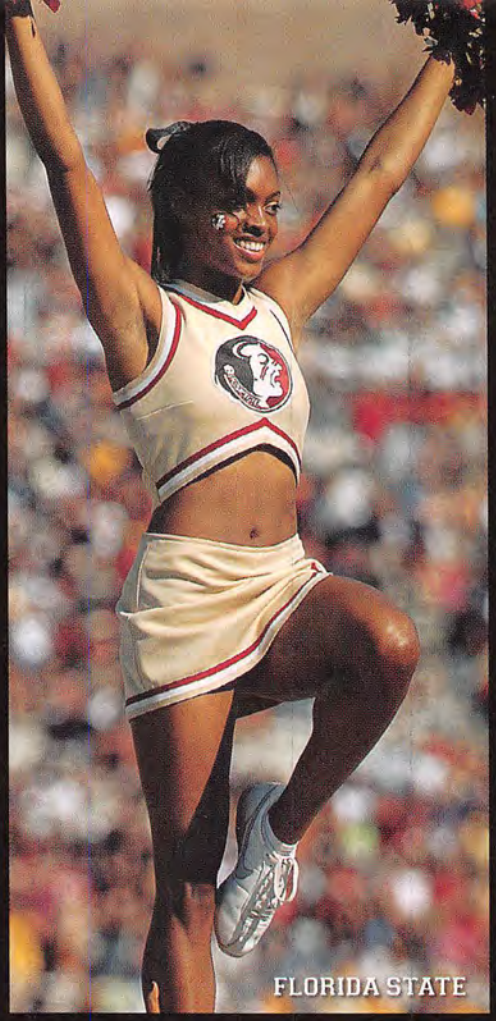
NOTRE DAME



AUBURN

BOISE STATE

NEBRASKA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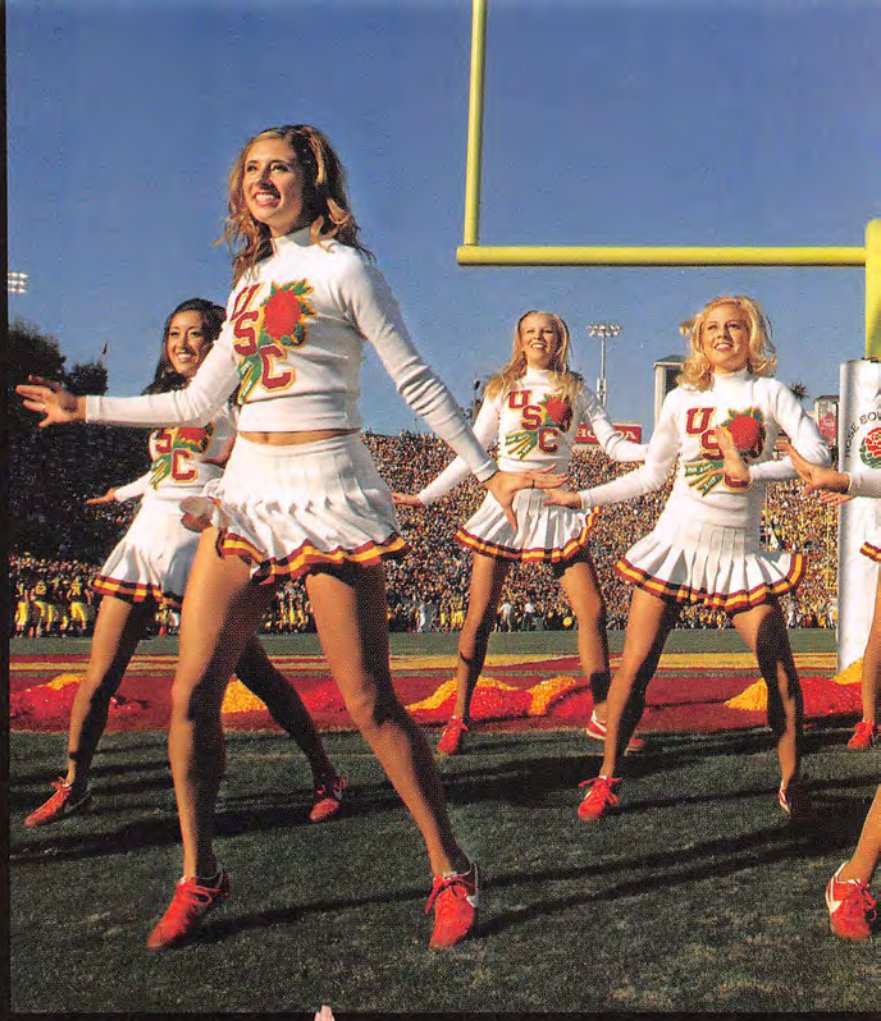
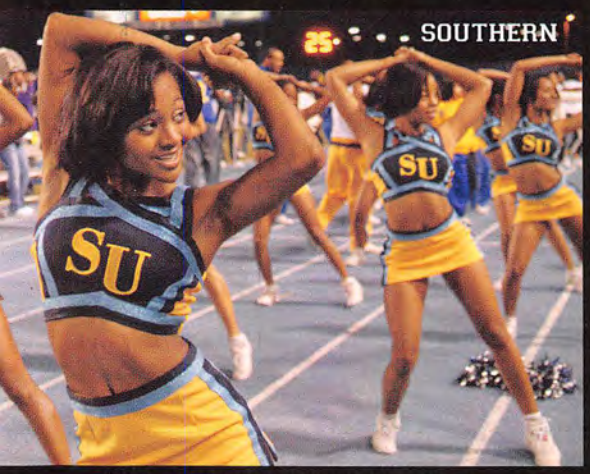
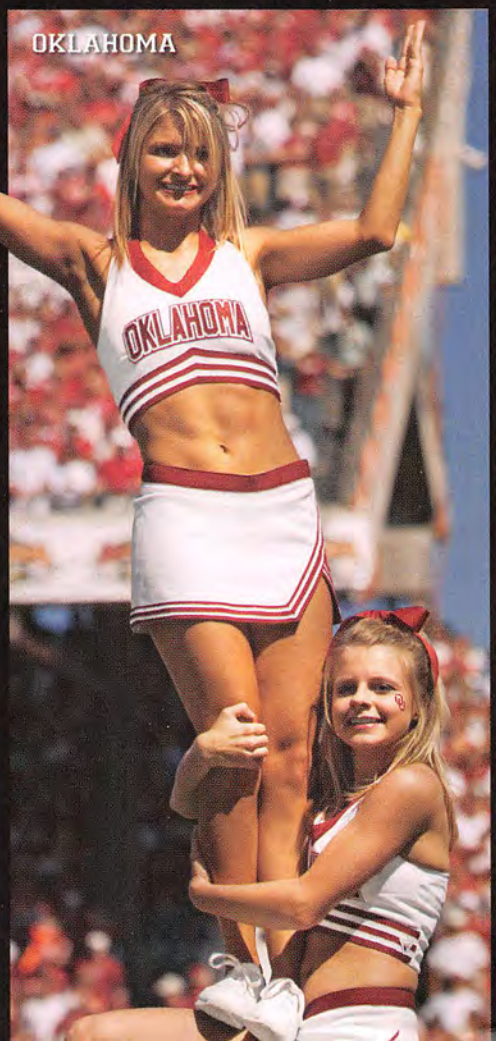


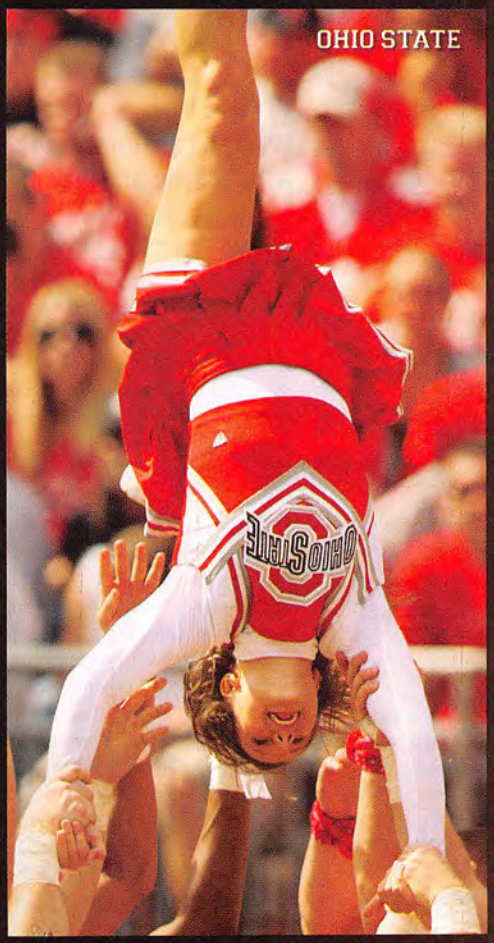
TEXAS CHRISTIAN


SOUTHERN

MICHIGAN


OKLAHOMA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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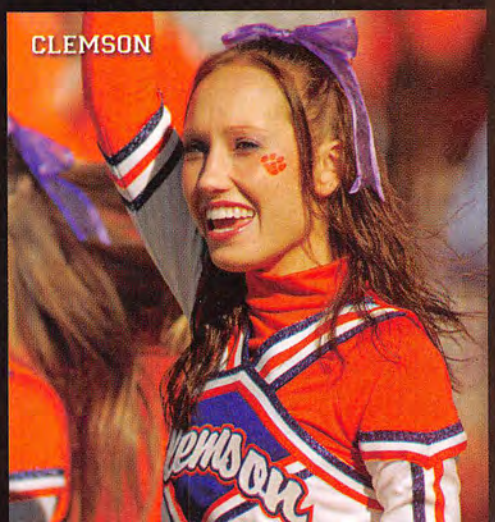

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ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

www.theacc.com

With 30 all-conference players returning, ACC teams are looking to bounce back big

By **DAN COLLINS**
Winston-Salem Journal

If Wake Forest can win the ACC football championship, who can't?

Certainly everything we all thought we knew about the power structure of the conference was altered dramatically when Wake, a program that has had more winless than winning seasons in ACC play, came out of nowhere last season to win just its second conference title ever.

Job security has never been a perk for ACC coaches, but never before has there been as much pressure on so many. Fans, supporters and administrators from the traditional powers right on down through downtrodden Duke have to wonder why their coach can't accomplish in 2007 what Jim Grobe of the Demon Deacons pulled off in 2006.

All bets are off. If Wake Forest can win the ACC football championship, who can't?

The argument can be made that the Deacons took advantage of a down year in the conference, a year in which Florida State, Miami and Virginia Tech all failed to live up to their lofty standards as national contenders.

That excuse will not be available this season. The conference is loaded with returning starters and stars. Of the 51 players who made first-or second-team All-ACC last season, 30 are back.

If Wake Forest contends again, it will prove that Grobe's patient approach has built not just a great team but a great program. And with experienced juniors and seniors all over their depth chart, the Deacons certainly have the personnel to make another run.

Tommy Bowden's efforts to build a national power at Clemson have yet to produce an ACC championship. The Tigers, who in James Davis and C.J. Spiller could have the best rushing tandem in college football, may possess as much talent as anyone in their division, if not the entire conference. Perhaps this will be their year.

And Georgia Tech returns the nucleus of the team that won the Coastal Division last year, with two notable exceptions. Losing receiver Calvin Johnson, the ACC's Player of the Year, will hurt. Losing quarterback Reggie Ball, whose erratic play proved fatal against Wake Forest, may help.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

ATLANTIC

1. CLEMSON — P. 28 STOCK: UP
2. WAKE FOREST — P. 30 STOCK: STEADY
3. FLORIDA STATE — P. 32 STOCK: STEADY
4. BOSTON COLLEGE — P. 33 STOCK: DOWN
5. MARYLAND — P. 34 STOCK: DOWN
6. N.C. STATE — P. 34 STOCK: DOWN

COASTAL

1. VIRGINIA TECH — P. 35 STOCK: UP
2. GEORGIA TECH — P. 37 STOCK: STEADY
3. MIAMI — P. 39 STOCK: STEADY
4. VIRGINIA — P. 40 STOCK: UP
5. NORTH CAROLINA — P. 41 STOCK: DOWN
6. DUKE — P. 41 STOCK: UP

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. MIAMI ▸ Hurricane prep pipeline still flowing with ex-assistant Randy Shannon promoted to head coach.
2. GEORGIA TECH ▸ Coach Chan Gailey has won his share and more on the field. Now he's winning his share and more of head-to-head recruiting battles.
3. NORTH CAROLINA ▸ Coach Butch Davis quickly endeared himself with the Tar Heel faithful by landing DT Marvin Austin with his first recruiting effort.
4. CLEMSON ▸ Quarterback Willy Korn is the headliner of another typically good class.
5. FLORIDA STATE ▸ Seminoles have slipped on the field, but brand name remains solid with Florida prep talent.
6. VIRGINIA TECH ▸ Hokies have fended off Virginia's efforts to dominate in-state recruiting.
7. VIRGINIA ▸ Taking advantage of wealth of indigenous prep talent, with 13 recruits from inside the commonwealth.
8. MARYLAND ▸ Coach Ralph Friedgen's reputation as an offensive wizard helped Terps land top offensive talent. Defense? Not so much.
9. BOSTON COLLEGE ▸ Not bad for Coach Jeff Jagodzinski's first effort. Next year, with more time, things should be better.
10. WAKE FOREST ▸ Wake's classes are ranked low year after year, but Deacons won ACC in 2006 with all that undervalued talent.
11. N.C. STATE ▸ Coach Tom O'Brien spent his limited recruiting time focusing on helping the offense, particularly the line.
12. DUKE ▸ Hope springs eternal in Durham, where help is on the way from TE Danny Parker and OT Chris Shannon.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-ACC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Matt Ryan, Sr., Boston College	Calais Campbell, Jr., Miami	DL
RB	C.J. Spiller, So., Clemson	Chris Long, Sr., Virginia	DL
RB	Branden Ore, Jr., Virginia Tech	Andre Fluellen, Sr., Florida State	DL
OL	Duane Brown, Sr., Virginia Tech	Adamm Oliver, Sr., Georgia Tech	DL
OL	Chris DeGeare, Jr., Wake Forest	Vince Hall, Sr., Virginia Tech	LB
OL	Steve Justice, Sr., Wake Forest	Geno Hayes, Jr., Florida State	LB
OL	Andrew Crummey, Sr., Maryland	Brian Toal, Sr., Boston College	LB
OL	Barry Richardson, Sr., Clemson	Brandon Flowers, Jr., Virginia Tech	DB
TE	Anthony Hill, Sr., N.C. State	DeJuan Tribble, Sr., Boston College	DB
WR	Greg Carr, Jr., Florida State	Kenny Phillips, Jr., Miami	DB
WR	Lance Leggett, Sr., Miami	Michael Hamlin, Jr., Clemson	DB
PK	Sam Swank, So., Wake Forest	Durant Brooks, Sr., Georgia Tech	P

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. Wake Forest will prove that it has more talent and experience this season than it did during last year's run to the ACC championship.
2. The departure of four-year starter Reggie Ball will make Georgia Tech a better football team.
3. Tommy Bowden, in his ninth season as head coach, is finally going to bring Clemson an ACC championship.
4. Coach Ralph Friedgen of Maryland will be reminded how hard it is for a first-year starter at quarterback to run his offense.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Jacoby Ford, Clemson

BEST HANDS
Kevin Challenger, Boston College

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Matt Ryan, Boston College

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Jameel Sewell, Georgia Tech

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
C.J. Spiller, Clemson

BEST INSTINCTS
Vince Hall, Virginia Tech

BEST ATHLETE
C.J. Spiller, Clemson

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Riley Skinner, Wake Forest

TOP NFL PROSPECT
C.J. Spiller, Clemson

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Mike Paulus, North Carolina

HARDEST HITTER
Xavier Adibi, Virginia Tech

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Drew Weatherford, Florida State

BRAD SCHLOSS / ICON SMI

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TOP 25 SELECTION

#1 CLEMSON TIGERS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 8-5 » **ACC:** 5-3 *(lost to Kentucky in the Music City Bowl, 28-20)*

Clemson, S.C. **Stadium:** Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,473) **Tickets:** 864-656-2118

With NCAA's most explosive tailback tandem, talented Tigers may have what it takes for first title since 1991

George Bush was president when Clemson last won the ACC football championship.

That's not the current president first elected in 2000. It's his father, George Herbert Walker Bush, elected in 1988 and president through 1992—notably the year Florida State joined the ACC.

Yes, it has really been that long.

For all of FSU's dominance since, five other schools have either won or shared the conference title with the Seminoles. Virginia's on the list, as is Georgia Tech, Maryland, Virginia Tech and Wake Forest. Clemson, which was last champion in 1991, is not.

Since 1992, two Clemson coaches have been fired during or after seasons in which they lost to Wake Forest. So what happens to the current coach, Tommy Bowden, who was on the job the year the Deacons won it all?

He's entering his ninth season looking for the kind of year that will soothe a restless fan base. Bowden was chin-deep in water hot enough to scald after 2003, the season the Tigers trailed Wake Forest 45-0 on the way to a 45-17 defeat, but he survived.

But the Tiger fans who show up 82,000 strong for home games don't want to just survive. They want to thrive. And they let anyone and everyone know that if they can't thrive with Bowden at the helm, then someone else should get a shot at one of college football's best jobs.

"Yes, I would say it's out there," Bowden told *The State* newspaper of Columbia, S.C. "I don't listen to it because there are too many facts to say that's not necessarily the case. To me, if you're close, it's an indication that it can be done. The last two years we've been close, not that far away."

Last year the Tigers became the team to beat in the Atlantic Division after back-to-back conference victories over Wake Forest and Georgia Tech. Then Virginia Tech beat them. Then Maryland beat them.

Then, after the Tigers slipped past N.C. State 20-14 at home, South Carolina beat them 31-28 in the biggest game of the season and Kentucky, of all teams, emerged victorious over Bowden's bunch in the Music City Bowl.

Ranked as high as No. 10 after an Oct. 21 victory over Georgia Tech, Clemson finished 8-5 overall and 5-3 in ACC play.

On the surface, it's hard to see how the Tigers will be better in 2007. They lost their best player (defensive end Gaines Adams), their best receiver (Chansi Stuckey), their starting quarterback (Will Proctor), a starting cornerback (Duane Coleman) and four starting offensive linemen to graduation, while the other starting cornerback (C.J. Gaddis) left for the NFL Draft after his junior season.

Clemson has four starters back on offense and seven on defense. Most ACC teams have more. But few programs in the ACC have recruited as consistently well as Clemson has during Bowden's time at the school, suggesting that the lack of experienced starters does not equate to a lack of talent.

There is no lack of athletes who can run, catch, throw and tackle at Clemson. There hasn't been in years. And one of these seasons that talent is going to carry the Tigers back to an ACC championship.

High on the list of the ACC's most talented players are James Davis, C.J. Spiller, Barry Richardson, Jacoby Ford, Nick Watkins and Tramaine Billie.

Davis and Spiller play running back, giving the Tigers one of the strongest backfields in the country. Davis, a 5-11, 205-pound junior, gained 1,187 yards on 203 carries last season and scored 17 touchdowns, good enough to be named first-team All-ACC. Spiller, a 5-11, 190-pound sophomore, gained 938 yards and scored 10 TDs, good enough to be named second-team All-ACC.

Richardson is a 6-7, 320-pound offensive tackle who made first-team all-conference last season. He is a preseason All-American and candidate for the Lombardi and Outland trophies.

Ford is a 5-9, 180-pound sophomore wide receiver who appears to be on the verge of stardom after catching 15 passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns last year, plus returning both a kickoff and a punt for a score. One of the conference's fastest players, Ford won the 2007 ACC indoor track title in the 60 meters with a time of 6.52 seconds.

Watkins is a 6-2, 220-pound senior linebacker who led the team in 2006 with 116 tackles and intercepted three passes. He is a candidate for this

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach:** Tommy Bowden
9th year (60-38) **Career Record:** 78-42

Official athletic Web site: www.clemsontigers.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 3	**Florida State**	27-20
S. 8	**Louisiana-Monroe**	
S. 15	**Furman**	
S. 22	@N.C. STATE	20-14
S. 29	@GEORGIA TECH	31-7
O. 6	**Virginia Tech**	7-24
O. 20	**Central Michigan**	
O. 27	@MARYLAND	12-13
N. 3	@DUKE	
N. 10	» **Wake Forest**	27-17
N. 17	**Boston College**	33-34 (OT)
N. 24	@SOUTH CAROLINA	28-31

» GAME TO WATCH «

The game that may well decide the Atlantic Division title.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8	(C)
2005	8	(C)
2004	6	
2003	9	(C) (B)
2002	7	(C)

(C) CONFERENCE TITLE (B) BOWL (N) NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **11**
Lettermen returning/lost: **50/28**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Cullen Harper (6-4, 215, r-Jr.)
RB	1	James Davis (5-11, 205, Jr.)
LT	79	Barry Richardson (6-7, 320, Sr.)
LG	68	Chris McDuffie (6-5, 330, r-Sr.)
C	71	Barry Humphries (6-3, 280, r-So.)
RG	74	Brandon Pilgrim (6-6, 300, r-Sr.)
RT	67	Christian Capote (6-4, 295, r-Sr.)
TE	84	Akeem Robinson (6-5, 260, r-Jr.)
WR	80	Aaron Kelly (6-5, 180, r-Jr.)
WR	13	Tyler Grisham (5-11, 180, Jr.)
WR	6	Jacoby Ford (5-9, 180, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	94	Phillip Merling (6-5, 270, Jr.)
NG	97	Dorell Scott (6-4, 305, r-Jr.)
DT	91	Rashaad Jackson (6-3, 290, r-Jr.)
DE	7	Ricky Sapp (6-4, 220, So.)
SLB	20	Tramaine Billie (6-1, 210, r-Sr.)
MLB	45	Cortney Vincent (6-1, 235, r-Jr.)
WLB	32	Nick Watkins (6-2, 220, r-Sr.)
CB	38	Chris Chancellor (5-9, 170, r-So.)
CB	18	Crezdon Butler (6-0, 185, So.)
FS	22	Chris Clemons (6-1, 205, r-Jr.)
ROV	25	Michael Hamlin (6-3, 200, r-Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	23	Mark Buchholz (6-1, 205, r-Jr.)
P	49	Jimmy Maners (6-1, 190, r-Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

THE NEXT BIG THING

» PHILLIP MERLING, DE

Poised to become the leader of the Tigers' defensive line after the departure of Gaines Adams to the NFL. At 6-5 and 270 pounds, he has a similar size and skill set.

season's Butkus Award, presented to college football's best linebacker.

And Billie is a senior linebacker whose return is being widely anticipated after missing last season with a broken ankle. Billie made 93 tackles in 2005, 12 of them in a 13-9 victory over rival South Carolina.

As might be expected given the number of departed starters, Bowden has some deep holes to fill. The most conspicuous is at quarterback, where four previously untested players will battle to replace the graduated Proctor, who completed 183 of 304 passes for 2,353 yards last season, with 16 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

The favorite among many fans is 6-2, 200-pound Willy Korn, a *Parade* All-American during his glory days (10,176 yards passing for 125 touchdowns) at nearby James F. Byrnes High School who enrolled last January and participated in spring practice. But the favorite of the coaching staff coming out of spring drills appeared to be Cullen Harper, a 6-4, 215-pound junior who completed 70 percent of his passes and compiled a pass-efficiency rating of 168.1 last season as Proctor's backup.

After watching Harper complete 15 of 24 passes for 147 yards and three touchdowns in the spring game, Bowden was asked what it would take for Harper not to be the starting quarterback for the Sept. 3 opener at home against Florida State.

"He'd have to have a poor offseason and a poor August, which would be out of character for him," Bowden said.

The other candidates are Tribble Reese, a 6-4, 205-pound junior, and Michael Wade, a 6-1, 200-pound freshman who redshirted last season.

The deepest hole to fill is along the offensive line, where four new starters will take the field against Florida State. Though not considered a returning starter, Chris McDuffie, a 6-5, 330-pound senior guard, started five games last season and played 340 snaps. He and Richardson are expected to man the left side.

The leading candidates on the right side are Brandon Pilgrim, a 6-6, 300-pound senior guard, and Christian Capote, a 6-4, 295-pound senior tackle. There's a real battle at center between Barry Humphries, a 6-3, 280-pound sophomore, and Bobby Hutchinson, a 6-3, 305-pound junior.

"We have players returning who saw significant playing time last year, because we had many games in hand in the second half," Bowden says, "so I don't think we are as bad off from an experience standpoint in the offensive line as it might look on paper."

But the most critical hole to fill may be at cornerback, where both of last year's starters, Coleman and Gaddis, must be replaced. The two players who appear to have first crack, based on their experience, are Chris Chancellor, a 5-9, 170-pound sophomore who had 288 plays last season, and Crezdon Butler, a 6-0, 185-pound sophomore who played 248 snaps and intercepted three passes.

Both will have to perform well in August to repel the challenge of Haydrian Lewis, a 5-11, 185-pound junior who played in eight games last season, and Byron Maxwell, a 6-0, 195-pound freshman who redshirted in 2006.

Bowden does not seem concerned about his defense, which a season ago ranked No. 13 in the nation under the command of Defensive Coordinator Vic Koenning.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Tigers reloaded the talent pool on both sides of the ball with their incoming recruiting class.

On offense, Coach Tommy Bowden and his staff received an early commitment from in-state quarterback **Willy Korn** (6-2, 200), a prep All-American from nationally ranked James F. Byrnes High of Duncan, S.C. Korn passed for 3,485 yards and 39 touchdowns while running for 14 scores as a senior in the Rebels' spread offense.

Rangy wide receiver **Xavier Dye** (6-4, 195) from Greenwood, S.C., will be a big target, as will tight end **Brian Linthicum** (6-4, 227) from St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, Va.

But defense is what the Tigers focused on in this recruiting class.

Starting with shutdown cornerback **Marcus Gilchrist** (5-11, 175) and safety **DeAndre McDaniel** (6-1, 190), the future of the secondary should be in good hands. Gilchrist hails from High Point, N.C., and McDaniel comes from Hargrave Military Academy, a Virginia prep school.

Arriving from the Virginia high school ranks is **Andre Branch** (6-4, 235), a candidate for outside linebacker or defensive end.

Possible impact linebackers include in-state product **Scotty Cooper** (6-0, 206) and **Brandon Maye** (6-2, 225), who hails from Alabama. Defensive end **Rennie Moore** (6-5, 260) is a touted Georgia prep product.

Other key recruits include tight end **Chad Diehl** (6-2, 235), a prep teammate of Korn; defensive tackle **Jarvis Jenkins** (6-4, 295); offensive linemen **Wilson Norris** (6-5, 320) and **David Smith** (6-5, 255); plus **Landon Walker** (6-6, 275), who could be tested on either side of the ball.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	Clemson	OPP
SCORING	425	210
Points Per Game	32.7	16.2
FIRST DOWNS	248	210
Rushing	132	86
Passing	101	115
Penalty	15	9
RUSHING YARDAGE	2832	1340
Yards gained rushing	3045	1744
Yards lost rushing	213	404
Rushing Attempts	495	463
Average Per Rush	5.7	2.9
Average Per Game	217.8	103.1
TDs Rushing	31	13
PASSING YARDAGE	2510	2310
Att-Comp-Int	327-198-11	385-214-14
Average Per Pass	7.6	6.0
Average Per Catch	12.7	10.8
Average Per Game	193.1	177.7
TDs Passing	18	9
TOTAL OFFENSE	5342	3650
Total Plays	822	848
Average Per Play	6.5	4.3
Average Per Game	410.9	280.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	660	1363
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	204	136
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	276	113
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	25.4	23.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.6	7.6
INT RETURN AVERAGE	19.7	10.3
FUMBLES-LOST	31-17	29-16
PENALTIES-YARDS	55-471	77-604
Average Per Game	4.2	5.9
PUNTS-YARDS	2106	2979
Average Per Punt	41.3	40.3
Net punt average	38.6	37.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:32	31:28
3RD-DOWN CONV.	68-162	69-190
3rd-Down Pct.	42.0%	36.3%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6-10	9-23
4th-Down Pct.	60.0%	39.1%
SACKS BY-YARDS	35-234	15-98
MISC YARDS	0	85
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	55	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	15-22	11-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	46-51	23-23
ATTENDANCE	570542	230163
Games/Avg Per Game	7/81506	4/57541
Neutral Site Games		2/49135

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Clemson	105	122	95	94	9	425
Opponents	33	48	71	48	10	210

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Will Proctor						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	135.3	183-304-11	60.2	2353	16	181.0

Cullen Harper						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
4	168.1	14-20-0	70.0	155	2	38.8

Tribble Reese						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	38.9	1-3-0	33.3	2	0	1.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
James Davis	13	203	1187	5.8	17	91.3
C.J. Spiller	13	129	938	7.3	10	72.2
D. Chancellor	7	45	276	6.1	1	39.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chansi Stuckey	10	50	700	14.0	3	70.0
Aaron Kelly	13	30	355	11.8	3	27.3
Tyler Grisham	13	25	264	10.6	3	20.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Nick Watkins	13	78	38	116
Chris Clemons	13	61	41	102
Antonio Clay	13	66	29	95

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Gaines Adams	13	12.5	87
Ricky Sapp	13	4	36
Dorell Scott	13	3	21

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Crezdon Butler	3	35	11.7	0
Nick Watkins	3	26	8.7	1
Michael Hamlin	2	90	45.0	0

#2 WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 11-3 » **ACC:** 6-2 *(lost to Louisville in the Orange Bowl, 24-13)*

Winston-Salem, N.C. **Stadium:** Groves Stadium (31,500) **Tickets:** 888-758-DEAC

Warning: Coming off ACC championship, Deacs believe they're just starting to peak

After a decade of riding the stormiest seas of college football, Wake Forest's ship finally came in last season.

Unbeknownst to most, it actually hit port a year earlier than expected.

Only those who have followed the program closely over Jim Grobe's six years as coach know that the target season for accomplishing something really special was 2007.

They expected the Deacons to be good in 2006—good enough to have a winning season and return to a bowl game for the first time since 2002.

But the real payday for Grobe's patient, tackle-by-tackle, linebacker-by-linebacker approach to building a football team—the year the Deacons, given the right breaks, might actually contend for an ACC championship—was supposed to be 2007.

"Everybody thought that," defensive end Matt Robinson says. "It came a little earlier. We've just got to keep it rolling."

Truth be told, the 2007 Deacons have every reason to believe they'll be deeper, more experienced and more talented than the team that a season ago set a school record with 11 victories, won the ACC championship and played in the Orange Bowl.

Having redshirted his freshmen en masse, Grobe built last year's team around fourth-year juniors and third-year sophomores. This season, the Deacons could open at Boston College with as many as 10 fifth-year seniors (or 11 if they start with two tight ends) and 10 fourth-year juniors among their top 22.

Another player almost certain to start is Jeremy Thompson, a senior defensive end who did not redshirt.

Put another way, there are 27 players on the roster who have started at least one game and 17 who have started at least 10 games.

One who has started 21 games is Robinson, who is back in the picture after missing last season with a broken kneecap.

"On both sides of the ball, there are a lot of old guys," Robinson says. "I can think back [when] we were all starting as freshmen. The whole [defensive] line was almost all freshmen and sophomores, and the linebackers were almost all freshmen and sophomores.

"It's looking like now like it's all juniors and seniors. We knew it was coming. We talked about how the day was going to come. It's here where you'd better watch out when we're out there."

A year ago, the Deacons survived misfortunes that would have scuttled lesser teams.

Ben Mauk, the starting quarterback, was sidelined for the season by a broken arm suffered in the first game. Riley Skinner, a little-known freshman who had never played, was thrust into the breach.

Micah Andrews, the starting tailback, was sidelined for the season by a torn knee ligament suffered in the third game. A game of musical chairs ensued that ended with a wide receiver, Kenneth Moore, being moved to tailback while the Deacs, for the first time in Grobe's tenure, struggled to establish a reliable ground game.

In Grobe's previous five seasons, the Deacons had never averaged less than 197.5 rushing yards a game. In 2006, they produced 149.9

And Robinson, who led the Deacons with 4.5 sacks in 2005, was expected to return by midseason, but never did.

All of those issues have been resolved. Mauk left the program with intentions to play at the University of Cincinnati after Skinner emerged to become ACC Rookie of the Year and the second-team All-ACC quarterback. Andrews missed spring practice, but is expected to be recovered by fall. And Robinson participated in all 14 practices during the spring and played well in the spring scrimmage.

The four players the Deacons will miss most are tackle Steve Vallos, safeties Josh Gattis and Patrick Ghee and linebacker Jon Abbate. Vallos was the leader of the offensive line, Gattis and Ghee were two of the ACC's most experienced and best defensive backs, and Abbate was a defensive force who chose to enter the NFL Draft after leading the Deacons in tackles all three seasons he played.

Steve Justice, a first-team All-ACC center, will assume Vallos' role on the offensive line, while linebacker, according to Grobe, remains the Deacons' deepest position even without Abbate. Grobe was worried enough about his

POWER RATINGS

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» **Head Coach:** Jim Grobe
7th year (37-35) **Career Record:** 70-68-1

Official athletic Web site: www.wakeforestsports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	» @BOSTON COLLEGE	21-14
S. 8	**Nebraska**	
S. 15	**Army**	
S. 22	**Maryland**	38-24
O. 6	@DUKE	14-13
O. 11	**Florida State**	30-0
O. 20	@NAVY	
O. 27	**North Carolina**	24-17
N. 3	@VIRGINIA	
N. 10	@CLEMSON	17-27
N. 17	**North Carolina State**	25-23
N. 24	@VANDERBILT	

GAME TO WATCH

A season-opening victory in Chestnut Hill would signal that the Deacons have staying power.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11
2005	4
2004	4
2003	5
2002	7

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **46/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	11	Riley Skinner (6-1, 200, r-So.)
FB	35	Rich Belton (6-1, 259, r-Jr.)
TB	3	Micah Andrews (5-10, 212, r-Sr.)
LT	78	Louis Frazier (6-4, 315, r-Sr.)
LG	79	Matthew Brim (6-4, 294, r-Sr.)
C	74	Steve Justice (6-4, 284, r-Sr.)
RG	70	Chris DeGeare (6-4, 362, Jr.)
RT	64	Jeff Griffin (6-3, 298, r-So.)
TE	89	John Tereshinski (6-3, 240, r-Sr.)
WR	14	Kevin Marion (5-1,0 168 r-Sr.)
WR	21	Kenneth Moore (6-0, 204, r-Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	93	Anthony Davis (6-5, 251, r-Jr.)
NG	96	Boo Robinson (6-2, 326, r-So.)
DT	51	John Russell (6-3, 250, r-So.)
DE	98	Jeremy Thompson (6-5, 264, Sr.)
OLB	59	Aaron Curry (6-3, 240, r-Jr.)
MLB	41	Eric Berry (6-1, 288, r-Jr.)
OLB	43	Stanley Arnoux (6-1, 245, r-Jr.)
CB	2	Alphonso Smith (5-9, 191, r-Jr.)
CB	29	Kerry Major (5-11, 179, r-Jr.)
SS	10	Kevin Patterson (5-10, 185, r-Jr.)
FS	9	Chip Vaughn (6-2, 220, r-Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Sam Swank (6-2, 206, r-Jr.)
P	38	Sam Swank (6-2, 206, r-Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

safeties that he moved Kevin Patterson, who has started 18 games at cornerback, there during the spring. By the end of spring, Grobe said he was much more confident about filling the cleats of Gattis and Ghee.

A much greater concern is the mental approach the Deacons take into the season. For whatever reason, be it the size of the school (around 4,000 undergraduates) or the lack of a successful tradition, Wake Forest has rarely excelled in a favorite's role.

For the Deacons to succeed in 2007, they'll have to.

"The biggest danger for us is we've got to realize what got us to the Orange Bowl and an ACC championship," Grobe says. "That was lots of hard work and playing hard on Saturday.

"It's nice to get some attention. I feel good for our football team. They deserve it. But at the same time I think the hardest thing to do is to have the kind of season we just had and come back the next season and have another good football team again. Getting there is kind of fun, but staying there is the toughest part."

Andrews, whose father, William Andrews, was a star running back with the Atlanta Falcons in the 1980s, was the heir apparent to Chris Barclay, who graduated after the 2005 season having set the school's all-time rushing and scoring records. Andrews gained 618 yards as a backup to Barclay in 2005 and 256 in less than three games last season.

He'll have to regain confidence in his knee, which was surgically repaired last October. At any rate, he will likely share the position, at least early, with Kevin Harris, De'Angelo Bryant, Josh Adams and Lucas Caparelli. Harris is a sophomore who gained 393 yards on 78 carries last season, while Bryant is a senior who gained 336 yards on 84 carries. Adams and Caparelli are highly regarded freshmen who sat out last season as redshirts.

Moore, who led the team last season with 507 yards on 105 carries, has returned to wide receiver. Grobe says he will experiment with various ways of getting him the football.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» ERIC BERRY, LB

A big man to fill some big shoes. Berry is the reason the Deacons didn't anguish over the loss of departed star Jon Abbate.

The offensive line was a disappointment through most of last season. The unit should be stronger in 2007, especially if Justice remains healthy; if Chris DeGeare, a 362-pound junior guard, emerges as the next star; and if Jeff Griffin, a sophomore pressed into action last season at tackle, progresses as expected.

The return of Robinson should make one of the deepest defensive lines in Wake Forest history that much deeper. Even with the loss of Abbate, the Deacons have never had as many good linebackers. The best is probably Aaron Curry, a junior who should contend for All-ACC honors after finishing second on the team last season with 83 tackles.

In the secondary, cornerback Alphonso Smith recovered from a dismal first half in 2006 to play well down the stretch. He'll be a team leader this season. At the other corner, the move of Patterson to safety was a vote of confidence to several young cornerbacks, among them junior Kerry Major, sophomores Channing Schofield and Brandon Ghee and redshirt freshman Marcus Williams.

Sam Swank, the All-ACC placekicker and honorable mention All-ACC punter last season, had surgery in April to repair a hernia that he first noticed warming up for the Orange Bowl. The most indispensable player on the team, Swank is expected to be fully recovered by the first game.

"There's no one in the country that can come out on the field and beat us," Robinson says. "But we also realize that there's no one that we can't get beat by. So as long as we keep that in our heads—that we can be beaten by anybody or we can beat anybody—we'll be all right."

RECRUITING REPORT

Coach Jim Grobe didn't rest on his 2006 laurels of winning the ACC title.

The Demon Deacons' coaching staff went to Ohio to land a versatile athlete in **Skylar Jones** (6-1, 186) from Middletown. Jones can be utilized at several positions and looks as if he could be next in line at quarterback after Riley Skinner graduates.

A rangy wide receiver who could play early is **Danny Dembry** (6-2, 173). Other promising first-year pass catchers in this class are Florida-bred **Jordan Williams** (6-3, 180) and **Cameron Ford** (6-4, 212), a South Carolina product who could play either wide receiver or tight end. All should give Skinner plenty of options.

The offense also received a boost with the signing of running back **Brandon Pendergrass** (5-9, 196) of Royal Palm Beach (Fla.) High.

On defense, in-state product **John Stamper** (6-0, 185) is a touted defensive back from Winston-Salem.

The offensive-line newcomers include Texas prep product **Ryan Britt** (6-4, 290), **Michael Hoag** (6-6, 290) from Tennessee and in-state talent **Doug Weaver** (6-8, 290).

The Deacons landed recruits from eight states, identifying skill-position athletes as a priority to fit into the tricky offense utilized by Grobe and staff.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	WF	OPP
SCORING	302	215
Points Per Game	21.6	15.4
FIRST DOWNS	231	259
Rushing	120	90
Passing	95	150
Penalty	16	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2099	1481
Yards gained rushing	2553	1864
Yards lost rushing	454	383
Rushing Attempts	542	475
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.1
Average Per Game	149.9	105.8
TDs Rushing	19	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2199	3034
Att-Comp-Int	287-188-6	446-255-22
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.8
Average Per Catch	11.7	11.9
Average Per Game	157.1	216.7
TDs Passing	11	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4298	4515
Total Plays	829	921
Average Per Play	5.2	4.9
Average Per Game	307.0	322.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	35-701	46-1020
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	33-366	14-70
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-318	6-54
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.0	22.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.1	5.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	14.5	9.0
FUMBLES-LOST	21-12	25-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	67-619	80-582
Average Per Game	44.2	41.6
PUNTS-YARDS	70-2887	68-2768
Average Per Punt	41.2	40.7
Net punt average	38.2	33.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:08	29:52
3RD-DOWN CONV.	60/171	64/185
3rd-Down Pct	35%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/6	11/19
4th-Down Pct	67%	58%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32-196	26-177
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	33	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	23-31	14-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	33-33	23-24
ATTENDANCE	195091	326336
Games/Avg Per Game	6/32515	6/54389
Neutral Site Games		2/68660

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Wake Forest	76	99	67	60	302
Opponents	44	71	33	67	215

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Riley Skinner

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
14	139.61	171-260-5	65.8	2051	9	146.5

Ben Mauk

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
1	114.86	14-21-1	66.7	105	1	105.0

Nate Morton

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
14	147.40	1-4-0	25.0	19	1	1.4

Brett Hodges

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
3	200.80	2-2-0	100.0	24	0	8.0

RUSHING

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kenneth Moore	14	105	507	4.8	2	36.2
Kevin Harris	11	78	393	5.0	6	35.7
De'Angelo Bryant	11	84	336	4.0	3	30.5

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Nate Morton	14	38	617	16.2	4	44.1
Willie Idlette	14	37	511	13.8	3	36.5
Kenneth Moore	14	32	314	9.8	1	22.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Jon Abbate	14	46	74	120
Aaron Curry	14	52	31	83
Josh Gattis	14	49	33	82

SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Jyles Tucker	14	6.0	34
Bryan Andrews	13	4.5	38
Alphonso Smith	14	4.0	30

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Josh Gattis	5	0	0.0	0
Riley Swanson	4	32	8.0	30
Alphonso Smith	3	23	7.7	10

#3 FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 7-6 » **ACC:** 3-5 *(beat UCLA in the Emerald Bowl, 44-27)*

Tallahassee **Stadium:** Doak S. Campbell Stadium (82,300) **Tickets:** 850-644-1830

Bowden looking for coaching carousel to spin him some more wins in Seminole country

The most predictable moment in one of the most unpredictable games in ACC football history arrived a nanosecond—if that—after the final horn sounded on Wake Forest's 30-0 victory over Florida State last November at Doak Campbell Stadium.

The switch was thrown that turned the scoreboard off. If you have a photograph that shows a scoreboard reading "Wake Forest 30, FSU 0" with 0:00 on the clock, cherish it. There can't be many.

Before the scoreboard could go dark, however, the realization had already come to light throughout the ACC. The world as we knew it, the one in which FSU dominated the conference in football, had changed.

Yes, Wake Forest was experiencing the greatest season in its history. Yes, FSU had a bad night.

But the Seminoles don't get shut out at home by anybody, least of all Wake Forest. At least they never had before in Bobby Bowden's 31 years as head coach.

Significant changes to a program that won or shared 12 championships in its first 14 ACC seasons were afoot, and would be announced after the Seminoles beat UCLA in the Emerald Bowl to salvage a 7-6 record—thus avoiding FSU's first losing season since 1976, Bowden's first year on the job.

Five assistants were shown the door; five new ones arrived. Those exiting included Bowden's son, Jeff, the Seminoles' offensive coordinator the last six seasons. Those arriving included Jimbo Fisher, who left LSU to replace Jeff.

Three other coaches were hired to help Fisher retool an offense that finished 2006 last in the ACC in rushing offense and fourth in total offense. And Bowden, who turned 77 the same month his team was skunked at home by Wake Forest, says he will let Fisher and his new coaches have at it.

"Especially on the offensive side, when you replace four of five coaches, you are not going to ask them to come in and do the same thing you were doing before," Bowden says. "You are going to ask your new coordinator to come in and put the offense he thinks is best, that he knows the best and he thinks fits our personnel the best.

"That's going to be interesting to see. Our offensive staff, with Jimbo heading it up, they will be in complete control of that offense."

Fisher and company will have plenty to work with. The Seminoles have six offensive starters returning, including Greg Carr, a 6-6 wide receiver who caught 34 passes last season for 619 yards and 12 touchdowns. And though one of the departing players was Lorenzo Booker, last season's leading rusher, there's sufficient evidence to suspect that his replacement, junior Antone Smith, may be every bit as good, if not better.

Job one for Fisher and the offensive staff will be deciding between juniors Drew Weatherford and Xavier Lee at quarterback. Weatherford started 10 games last season, which he ended in impressive fashion by completing 21 of 43 passes for 325 yards in a 44-27 victory against UCLA in the Emerald Bowl. But his overall body of work, which included 11 interceptions on 318 passes, was erratic enough that Lee remained an option.

Lee, for the season, completed 62 of 121 passes, while throwing five interceptions.

Bowden says the decision on who starts belongs to Fisher. "I haven't said one thing to Jimbo about the quarterbacks," Bowden says. "I wanted him to have an unbiased opinion."

The Seminoles have eight returning starters on defense, including Andre Fluellen and Myron Rolle. Fluellen made second-team All-ACC last season as a nose tackle and Rolle was named a first-team Freshman All-American at safety by *Sporting News*.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **GENO HAYES, LB**

He has moved inside to replace third-round NFL pick Buster Davis. Hayes finished 2006 with a flourish, making 12 tackles in the Emerald Bowl.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Dionte Allen, DB, 5-11, 175**
   Michigan product could be a shutdown corner.
2. **Antwane Greenlee, OT, 6-6, 302**
   Georgia's loss is Seminoles' gain.
3. **Kendall Smith, LB, 6-1, 207**
   Possibly the best in-state linebacker prospect.
4. **Anthony Grosso, OT, 6-6, 290**
   Very mobile and athletic for size.
5. **Will Furlong, OL, 6-5, 275**
   One of several promising blockers.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Bobby Bowden**
32nd year (293-81-4) **Career Record:** 366-113-4

Official athletic Web site: www.seminoles.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 3	» @CLEMSON	20-27
S. 8	**UAB**	
S. 15	@COLORADO	
S. 29	**Alabama***	
O. 6	**North Carolina State**	20-24
O. 11	@WAKE FOREST	0-30
O. 20	**Miami (FL)**	13-10
O. 27	**Duke**	51-24
N. 3	@BOSTON COLLEGE	19-24
N. 10	@VIRGINIA TECH	
N. 17	**Maryland**	24-27
N. 24	@FLORIDA	14-21

GAME TO WATCH

By beating his son on a Monday night, Papa Bowden can show his Seminoles the road back to national prominence.

** at Jacksonville, FL*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7	CONFERENCE TITLE
2005	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2004	9	CONFERENCE TITLE
2003	10	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2002	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **21**
Lettermen returning/lost: **35/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	11	Drew Weatherford (6-3, 220, r-Jr.)
FB	32	Joe Surratt (6-1, 258, Sr.)
TB	6	Antone Smith (5-9, 188, Jr.)
LT	79	David Overmyer (6-5, 280, r-Sr.)
LG	68	Jacky Claude (6-4, 290, Sr.)
C	67	John Frady (6-4, 279, r-Sr.)
RG	58	Dumaka Atkins (6-4, 304, r-Jr.)
RT	73	Shannon Boatman (6-7, 324, r-Sr.)
TE	45	Charlie Graham (6-3, 240, r-So.)
WR	89	Greg Carr (6-6, 212, Jr.)
WR	85	Richard Goodman (6-0. 182, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	97	Eli Charles (6-2, 225, r-So.)
DT	93	Letroy Guion (6-4, 286, Jr.)
NG	96	Andre Fluellen (6-4, 286, Sr.)
RE	99	Everette Brown (6-4, 240, So.)
SLB	36	Dekoda Watson (6-2, 225, So.)
MLB	10	Geno Hayes (6-2, 215, Jr.)
WLB	37	Rodney Gallon (6-0, 200, Jr.)
LCB	15	Tony Carter (5-9, 160, Jr.)
RCB	20	Jamie Robinson (6-2, 187, So.)
FS	8	Roger Williams (6-0, 200, Sr.)
RV	3	Myron Rolle (6-2, 218, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	12	Gary Cismesia (5-11, 211, Sr.)
P	43	Graham Gano (6-1, 190, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

2006 Record: 10-3 » ACC: 5-3 *(beat Navy in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 25-24)*

Stadium: Alumni Stadium (44,500) **Tickets:** 617-552-4622 **Chestnut Hill, Mass.**

#4
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Jeff Jagodzinski**, 1st Year

Official athletic Web site: www.bceagles.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Wake Forest**	14-21
S. 8	» **North Carolina State**	15-17
S. 15	@GEORGIA TECH	
S. 22	**Army**	
S. 29	**Massachusetts**	
O. 6	**Bowling Green**	
O. 13	@NOTRE DAME	
O. 25	@VIRGINIA TECH	22-3
N. 3	**Florida State**	24-19
N. 10	@MARYLAND	38-16
N. 17	@CLEMSON	34-33 (OT)
N. 24	**Miami (FL)**	14-17

» GAME TO WATCH «

New Coach Jeff Jagodzinski could put his immediate stamp on the BC program by beating the man he replaced.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10	C
2005	9	C
2004	9	C B
2003	8	C
2002	9	C

C CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL N NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **18**
Lettermen returning/lost: **44/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Matt Ryan (6-5, 218, Sr.)
FB	36	James McCluskey (6-2, 240, r-Fr.)
TB	30	L.V. Whitworth (5-11, 216, Sr.)
LT	77	Gosder Cherilus (6-7, 318, Sr.)
LG	72	Ryan Poles (6-4, 295, Sr.)
C	61	Kevin Sheridan (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RG	67	Tom Anevski (6-2, 291, Sr.)
RT	76	Pat Sheil (6-6, 284, So.)
TE	85	Ryan Thompson (6-4, 259, Sr.)
WR	84	Kevin Challenger (5-8, 178, Sr.)
WR	2	Brandon Robinson (5-10, 195, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	97	Brady Smith (6-2, 285, So.)
LT	60	Ron Brace (6-3, 335, Jr.)
RT	90	B.J. Raji (6-1, 340, Sr.)
RE	92	Allan Smith (6-2, 230, So.)
LB	48	Tyronne Pruitt (5-11, 220, Sr.)
LB	40	Jolonn Dunbar 6-0, 233, Sr.)
LB	16	Brian Toal (6-0, 232, Sr.)
CB	27	DeJuan Tribble (5-9, 190, Sr.)
CB	29	Taji Morris (5-9, 181, Jr.)
SS	19	Paul Anderson (6-1, 210, Jr.)
FS	44	Jamie Silva (5-11, 208, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	83	Steve Aponavicius (5-10, 175, Jr.)
P	46	Johnny Ayers (6-0. 186, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	2

Jagodzinski has talent in place to keep BC bowl streak alive

Offensive tackle Gosder Cherilus returned to Boston College this season to complete some unfinished business.

"Now it's my class' turn to pick up the slack and help us get to the next level, which is the ACC championship," Cherilus told the *Boston Herald*, explaining why he had put off entering the NFL Draft until his eligibility at BC expires.

Coach Tom O'Brien, on the other hand, intimated that he had done about all he felt he could do at BC. That's how he explained his reasons for leaving the Eagles to become the new coach at N.C. State.

"At BC, nine or 10 wins was about as good as you could do," O'Brien said. "The sky is the limit [at N.C. State]. We're not here to win nine or 10 a year. We're here to win more."

So who's right: the offensive tackle or the coach? This is the year we should all find out.

Jeff Jagodzinski, hired off the staff of the Green Bay Packers to replace O'Brien, is walking into a situation much better than that of most first-year coaches. Usually a coaching change is made because the previous coach couldn't get the job done. O'Brien got the job done, winning at least eight games in each of his final six seasons at BC and leaving with a streak of eight straight bowl games.

And upon departing for Raleigh, O'Brien left behind a BC roster chock-full of proven players. Seven starters return on offense, including Cherilus, running back L.V. Whitworth and Matt Ryan, last year's first-team All-ACC quarterback. Nine starters are back on defense, including the entire front seven—assuming senior linebacker Brian Toal returns from shoulder surgery last winter.

The most significant changes, then, will be the coaching staff and the system it plans to implement. Seven of Jagodzinski's nine coaches are new, including Steve Logan, the former head coach at East Carolina who was hired as the Eagles' offensive coordinator. Jagodzinski, who served as offensive coordinator at Green Bay last season, and Logan have installed an offense that relies more heavily on zone blocking. The Eagles have traditionally had the largest offensive linemen in the ACC. This year, Cherilus and company have been asked to lose weight in order to gain more mobility and agility.

The requisite talent certainly appears to be on hand. Ryan, a 6-5, 218-pound senior, completed 263 of 427 passes last year for 2,942 yards and 15 touchdowns, despite playing most of the season on a broken foot. He threw 10 interceptions.

Ryan's main targets are expected to be senior Kevin Challenger, who caught 47 passes for 543 yards and five touchdowns last year, and junior Brandon Robinson (36 catches, 490 yards).

Whitworth, a 5-11, 216-pound senior, gained 791 yards on 174 carries, while Andre Callender, a 5-11, 204-pound senior, picked up 633 on 146 tries.

The Eagles should have a similar look defensively after ranking fourth in the ACC last season in scoring defense and seventh in total defense. Frank Spaziani returns for his 11th season as a BC assistant and his ninth as defensive coordinator. After O'Brien's departure, Spaziani coached the Eagles to a 25-24 victory over Navy in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.

Spaziani has reason to be optimistic this season. He'll have even more reason if Toal, who doubles as a short-yardage back, can return 100 percent from shoulder surgery. But with or without Toal, the BC defense is loaded with experience, depth and talent.

B.J. Raji, a 6-1, 340-pound senior, made second-team All-ACC last season at defensive tackle. Cornerback DeJuan Tribble was second-team All-ACC.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **BRANDON ROBINSON, WR**

Should evolve from solid starter into No. 1 target for QB Matt Ryan. Gives Eagles downfield speed to stretch defenses.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **John Elliott, OL, 6-4, 280**
   The New York product could be special.
2. **Corey Eason, DE, 6-5, 270**
   Top in-state prospect has potential.
3. **Anthony Castonzo, OL, 6-6, 260**
   The prep-school product has a pro frame.
4. **Will Thompson, LB, 6-1, 230**
   New Jersey native could see early playing time.
5. **Chris Johnson, QB, 6-2, 200**
   One of two signal-callers in the 2007 class.

College Park » 2006 Record: 9-4 » ACC: 5-3

(beat Purdue in the Champs Sports Bowl, 24-7)

#5 » MARYLAND TERRAPINS

PRESEASON RANK

The case can be made that it's ridiculous to pick Maryland fifth. Another case is being made here that there are four other teams in the division that, based on what they lost and have coming back, should finish higher.

That says more about the strength of the ACC's Atlantic Division than it does the weaknesses of a team with 14 starters returning from a 9-4 season coached by a man who's as good at what he does as Ralph Friedgen.

The Terps actually played for the division championship last year, but lost at home to Wake Forest 38-24 in the showdown game. One big reason for Maryland's success last season was that—unlike several other notable teams in the ACC—it received solid-to-first-rate play at quarterback.

The quarterback the last two seasons, Sam Hollenbach, was lost to spent eligibility. He was better as a senior than as a junior, which probably came as no surprise to Friedgen.

The only quarterback on the roster with any experience is junior Jordan Steffy, Hollenbach's backup last season. Among the cast of contenders is Josh Portis, a former high school sensation who transferred two years ago from the University of Florida and sat out last season. Portis played only a handful of plays for the Gators in 2005 as a first-year freshman.

Whoever plays quarterback will have to do so without the protection Stephon Heyer provided last season at left tackle. Three starters return on the offensive line, but right tackle Jared Gaither's was held out of spring practice to concentrate on academics and his status was uncertain at press time.

The Terps do have two proven running backs in Lance Ball and Keon Lattimore.

Friedgen likes his depth on defense, but will have to replace three starters on the defensive line and two starting linebackers.

Head Coach: Ralph Friedgen
7th year (50-24)
Career Record: 50-24
Stadium: Byrd Stadium
Tickets: 301-314-7070
Capacity: 51,500
Official athletic Web site:
www.umterps.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9 (C)
2005	5
2004	5
2003	10 (C)
2002	11 (C)

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Villanova**	
S. 8	@FIU	14-10
S. 13	**West Virginia**	24-45
S.22	**@WAKE FOREST**	24-38
S. 29	@RUTGERS	
O. 6	**Georgia Tech**	23-27
O. 20	**Virginia**	28-26
O. 27	**Clemson**	13-12
N. 3	@UNC	
N. 10	**Boston College**	16-38
N. 17	@FLORIDA STATE	27-24
N. 24	@N.C. STATE	26-20

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

The Deacons are saying they'll sneak up on no one this year; Terps are out to prove they're right.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **41/14**

» OFFENSE

QB	19	Jordan Steffy (6-1, 209, Jr.)
FB	38	Cory Jackson (6-1, 253, So.)
TB	44	Lance Ball (5-9, 223, Sr.)
LT	77	Scott Burley (6-5, 324, Sr.)
LG	76	Jaimie Thomas (6-4, 339, Jr.)
C	60	Edwin Williams (6-2, 326, Jr.)
RG	63	Andrew Crummey (6-5, 301, Sr.)
RT	78	Jared Gaither (6-9, 350, Jr.)
TE	80	Joey Haynos (6-8, 260, Sr.)
WR	14	Nolan Carroll (6-1, 202, So.)
WR	8	D. Heyward-Bey (6-2, 206, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	40	Jeremy Navarre (6-3, 262, Jr.)
DT	68	Carlos Feliciano (6-5, 315, Sr.)
DT	92	Dre Moore (6-4, 311, Sr.)
LEO	55	Trey Covington (6-3, 240, Jr.)
SLB	34	Dave Philistin (6-2, 231, Jr.)
MLB	42	Chase Bullock (6-2, 234, Jr.)
WLB	1	Erin Henderson (6-3, 236, Jr.)
CB	2	Kevin Barnes (6-1, 188, Jr.)
CB	9	Richard Taylor (5-11, 193, Jr.)
FS	30	J.J. Justice (6-2, 222, Sr.)
SS	3	Christian Varner (5-11, 205, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Obi Egekeze (6-2, 224, Jr.)
P	49	Chris Roberts (6-1, 198, Sr.)

Raleigh » 2006 Record: 3-9 » ACC: 2-6

#6 » N.C. STATE WOLFPACK

PRESEASON RANK

The first time quarterback Daniel Evans of N.C. State ever met Tom O'Brien was on the field after Evans had thrown a touchdown pass to beat O'Brien's team from Boston College.

When Evans got to know O'Brien better—after N.C. State introduced him as the Wolfpack's new football coach—there were no surprises.

"He's exactly what you think he is—straight-laced, disciplined, a former Marine," Evans told the Raleigh *News & Observer*.

If "straight-laced and disciplined" sounds like a radical departure from Chuck Amato, the Wolfpack coach for the past seven years, that's probably no coincidence. Amato rubbed many in Raleigh the wrong way, often as much for his brash, flamboyant personality as his 25-31 ACC record that included three straight losses to rival North Carolina.

O'Brien, not exactly the warm-and-fuzzy type, was difficult for some BC fans to warm up to as well. But after seven years of Amato, the anti-Chuck should play well in Raleigh.

That's *if* the Wolfpack plays well. If he can get solid play at quarterback from Evans, redshirt freshman Justin Burke or sophomore Harrison Beck, a transfer from Nebraska, then O'Brien could launch one of the real surprises of the 2007 ACC season.

N.C. State has 13 starters returning from a 3-9 team. Eight return on offense, including two of the ACC's most talented running backs in Andre Brown and Toney Baker.

The defense is anybody's guess. Because most of O'Brien's practices are closed, it will remain that way at least until the opener against Central Florida. Senior DeMario Pressley, who has started 24 games at defensive tackle, is one of five starters returning from a unit that finished eighth in the ACC in total defense.

Head Coach: Tom O'Brien, 1st year
Career Record: 75-45
Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium
Tickets: 800-310-PACK
Capacity: 56,800
Official athletic Web site:
www.gopack.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	3
2005	7 (C)
2004	5
2003	8 (C)
2002	11 (C)

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**UCF**	
S.8	**@BOSTON COLLEGE**	17-15
S. 15	**Wofford**	
S. 22	**Clemson**	14-20
S. 29	**Louisville**	
O. 6	@FLORIDA STATE	24-20
O. 20	@EAST CAROLINA	16-21
O. 27	**Virginia**	7-14
N. 3	@MIAMI (FL)	
N. 10	**North Carolina**	9-23
N. 17	@WAKE FOREST	23-25
N. 24	**Maryland**	20-26

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

O'Brien returns to his old school looking to get his new school off on the right foot.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **15/11**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Daniel Evans (6-2, 191, r-Jr.)
HB	22	Toney Baker (5-10, 225, Jr.)
FB	46	Pat Bedics (6-0, 239, r-Sr.)
LT	73	Julian Williams (6-5, 292, r-So.)
LG	69	Kalani Heppe (6-4, 300, r-Sr.)
C	72	Luke Lathan (6-4, 292, r-So.)
RG	76	Curtis Crouch (6-5, 335, Jr.)
RT	50	Jerail McCuller (6-7, 330, r-So.)
TE	83	Anthony Hill (6-6, 265, Sr.)
WR	2	Darrell Blackman (5-10, 205, Sr.)
WR	1	John Dunlap (6-2, 218, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	41	Martrel Brown (6-2, 290, r-Sr.)
LT	92	DeMario Pressley (6-3, 295, Sr.)
RT	49	Alan-Michael Cash (6-1, 291, r-So.)
RE	97	Willie Young (6-5, 230, r-So.)
SLB	52	LeRue Rumph (6-1, 223, r-Sr.)
MLB	95	James Martin II (6-1, 236, r-Sr.)
WLB	5	Ernest Jones (6-2, 225, r-Sr.)
LCB	6	Levin Neal (5-11, 191, Jr.)
RCB	8	Jimmie Sutton III (5-11, 181, r-Sr.)
FS	25	Miguel Scott (6-0, 195, Sr.)
ROV	7	DaJuan Morgan (6-1, 200, r-Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	36	Josh Czajkowski (5-9, 178 r-Fr.)
P	36	Josh Czajkowski (5-9, 178 r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

TOP 25 SELECTION

BCS BOWL

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

1 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 10-3 » **ACC:** 6-2 *(lost to Georgia in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 31-24)*

Stadium: Lane Stadium (65,115) **Tickets:** 540-231-6731 **Blacksburg**

» **Head Coach: Frank Beamer**
21st year (156-82-2) **Career Record:** 198-105-4

Official athletic Web site: www.hokiesports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**East Carolina**	
S. 8	@LSU	
S. 15	**Ohio**	
S. 22	**William & Mary**	
S. 29	**North Carolina**	35-10
O. 6	@CLEMSON	24-7
O. 13	@DUKE	36-0
O. 25	**Boston College**	3-22
N. 1	» @GEORGIA TECH	27-38
N. 10	**Florida State**	
N. 17	**Miami (FL)**	17-10
N. 24	@VIRGINIA	17-0

» GAME TO WATCH «

Coastal Division race could come down to this Thursday night showdown in Atlanta.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10
2005	11
2004	10
2003	8
2002	10

CONFERENCE TITLE *BOWL* *NATIONAL TITLE*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **42/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Sean Glennon (6-4, 221, r-Jr.)
FB	39	Carlton Weatherford (5-10, 230, r-Sr.)
TB	28	Branden Ore (5-11, 202, r-Jr.)
LT	76	Duane Brown (6-5, 290, r-Sr.)
LG	67	Nick Marshman (6-5, 351, r-Jr.)
C	58	Ryan Shuman (6-3, 318, r-Jr.)
RG	70	Sergio Render (6-3, 320, So.)
RT	85	Ed Wang (6-5, 268, r-So.)
TE	83	Sam Wheeler (6-3, 253, r-So.)
SE	2	Josh Morgan (6-1, 219, Sr.)
FL	4	Eddie Royal (5-10, 181, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	49	Chris Ellis (6-5, 260, r-Sr.)
DT	99	Carlton Powell (6-2, 294, r-Sr.)
DT	59	Barry Booker (6-4, 280, r-Sr.)
DE	47	Nekos Brown (6-2, 236, So.)
LB	9	Vince Hall (6-0, 240, r-Sr.)
LB	11	Xavier Adibi (6-2, 226, r-Sr.)
LB	13	Corey Gordon (6-2, 226, r-Sr.)
CB	18	Brandon Flowers (5-10, 190, r-Jr.)
CB	1	Victor "Macho" Harris (6-0, 200, Jr.)
FS	25	D.J. Parker (5-11, 194, Sr.)
ROV	24	Dorian Porch (5-11, 203, r-So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	92	Jud Dunlevy (5-9, 188, r-Sr.)
P	97	Brent Bowden (6-2, 197, r-So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	5

Responding to tragedy, Beamer determined that Hokies will make this a special season for Tech

For a long time now, football has meant a whole lot to a whole lot of people at Virginia Tech.

Come the 2007 football season, it promises to mean even more.

If Coach Frank Beamer knows his school, the Virginia Tech community will rally around the football team as fans, faculty and students try to make sense of the senseless tragedy that blindsided the university in April. Although a sad, twisted gunman may have been aiming for the heart of Virginia Tech when he went on the rampage that killed 33—including himself—Beamer says that by September it will be obvious the shooter missed his mark.

"I think when we open up against East Carolina in Lane Stadium next fall, there will be a togetherness in that stadium that we've never seen before," Beamer says. "And it's been a very together place. There have been a lot of exciting moments and a lot of great fan support, great alumni support, great student support and great faculty support that has helped us win a lot of football games in that stadium.

"But if I know Hokie people, it will be tighter than ever next fall."

Football season is always highly anticipated in Blacksburg, where the Hokies have won no fewer than eight games since 1997. But this season had the makings of a special one even before insanity intruded on the university community tucked away in a mountainous corner of southwest Virginia.

The Hokies were good in 2006 when they finished 10-3 and won at least 10 games for the fifth time in six seasons. This year, with 16 starters returning, they should be even better.

Eight players are back from a defense that a year ago could lay claim to the distinction of college football's best. The Hokies led NCAA Division I football last season in total defense and scoring defense, giving up just 219.5 yards and a meager 11 points a game.

And among the eight back on offense are a first-team All-ACC running back (Branden Ore), a second-team all-conference tackle (Duane Brown) and a quarterback (Sean Glennon) who should be even better in his second year as a starter. Glennon, a 6-4, 221-pound junior, completed 170 of 302 passes for 2,191 yards last season. An emphasis this year is to improve his touchdown-to-interception ratio after he threw for 11 of each in 2006.

But starting with the defense—as it always does at Virginia Tech—the Hokies have a chance to be even tougher to score against this season than last. Two returning starters on defense, linebacker Vince Hall and cornerback Brandon Flowers, made first-team All-ACC last season. Another linebacker, Xavier Adibi, made the second team.

And if Defensive Coordinator Bud Foster is resting on his considerable laurels, he isn't letting on.

"We've got eight guys returning as starters from last year, but we can't be complacent," Foster says. "We've got to continue to improve.

"The overall mood is to continue to grow and develop as a unit. We need to develop as a unit and, obviously with it being a new year, we need to develop our chemistry as a unit."

The most experienced position group on defense is the line, where Chris Ellis, Carlton Powell and Barry Booker—three fifth-year seniors—have combined for 247 tackles, 49.5 tackles for loss and 18 sacks in their careers. Ellis missed spring practice while recovering from shoulder surgery, but is expected back.

The two biggest questions for Foster up front are who will replace the one player lost to spent eligibility (defensive end Noland Burchette) and whether Kory Robertson's time has finally arrived. Junior Orion Martin is battling it out with sophomore Nekos Brown and redshirt freshman Jason Adjepong for the starting end position opposite Ellis. Robertson, who had only 16 tackles last season, is a 6-2, 335-pound fifth-year senior who, according to Defensive Line Coach Charley Wiles, is the best NFL prospect on the Hokies' defensive front.

Robertson entered August practice on the second team behind Powell.

The return of Hall and Adibi all but guarantees the Hokies will be as talented at linebacker as any team in the conference. Foster describes Hall, who led the Hokies with 128 tackles last season, as the best linebacker he has coached in his 20 years at Virginia Tech. And Adibi,

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	Va. Tech	OPP
SCORING	336	143
Points Per Game	25.8	11.0
FIRST DOWNS	196	147
Rushing	77	61
Passing	99	66
Penalty	20	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1474	1186
Yards gained rushing	1829	1511
Yards lost rushing	355	325
Rushing Attempts	455	429
Average Per Rush	3.2	2.8
Average Per Game	113.4	91.2
TDs Rushing	22	7
PASSING YARDAGE	2363	1667
Att-Comp-Int	322-181-12	314-161-17
Average Per Pass	7.3	5.3
Average Per Catch	13.1	10.4
Average Per Game	181.8	128.2
TDs Passing	13	6
TOTAL OFFENSE	3837	2853
Total Plays	777	743
Average Per Play	4.9	3.8
Average Per Game	295.2	219.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	29-606	29-616
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-353	26-212
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-305	12-55
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.9	21.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	12.6	8.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	17.9	4.6
FUMBLES-LOST	22-11	23-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	77-664	82-635
Average Per Game	51.1	48.8
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2582	88-3347
Average Per Punt	41.6	38.0
Net punt average	36.0	32.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:09	30:51
3RD-DOWN CONV.	62/173	50/185
3rd-Down Pct	36%	27%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	3/11	3/10
4th-Down Pct	27%	30%
SACKS BY-YARDS	30-218	29-219
MISC YARDS	0	3
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	40	14
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	18-20	14-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	38-40	13-13
ATTENDANCE	529864	179727
Games/Avg Per Game	8/66233	4/44932
Neutral Site Games		1/75406

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Virginia Tech	77	89	79	91	336
Opponents	40	23	39	41	143

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Sean Glennon

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	122.0	170-302-11	56.3	2191	11	168.5

Ike Whitaker

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	145.6	10-16-0	62.5	119	1	23.8

Eddie Royal

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	225.1	1-3-1	33.3	53	1	4.1

RUSHING	GP	ATT	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Branden Ore	12	241	1137	4.7	16	94.8
Kenny Lewis	7	54	215	4.0	2	30.7
George Bell	4	35	107	3.1	2	26.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
David Clowney	12	34	424	12.5		35.3
Josh Morgan	12	33	448	13.6		37.3
Eddie Royal	13	31	497	16.0		38.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Vince Hall	13	61	67	128
Xavier Adibi	13	29	53	82
Aaron Rouse	13	23	34	57

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Chris Ellis	12	4.5	38
Brandon Flowers	13	3.5	28
Noland Burchette	13	3.5	21

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Victor Harris	4	75	18.8	1
Brenden Hill	3	95	31.7	1
Brandon Flowers	3	26	8.7	0

who finished second on the team with 82 tackles, isn't too shabby either.

The hope is that someone will emerge as a front-line player at the position vacated by outside linebacker Brenden Hill. Senior Corey Gordon, Hill's backup last season, gets the first shot, but is being pressed by sophomores Cody Grimm and Cam Martin and redshirt freshman Steven Friday.

Foster says the Hokies also need to develop depth from that group.

Both starting cornerbacks, Flowers and Victor "Macho" Harris, return. Flowers, a junior, was named a third-team All-American by the Associated Press last season after leading the ACC with 21 passes defended. Harris, a junior, led the Hokies with four interceptions.

D.J. Parker returns after starting last season at free safety, leaving the rover position vacated by Aaron Rouse and Cary Wade as the only hole to fill. Dorian Porch, a sophomore, emerged from spring practice as the starter at rover, but the Hokie coaches are excited about the potential of Kam Chancellor, a sophomore who was moved there from cornerback after the departure of Rouse and Wade.

The Hokies were inconsistent last season at quarterback and on the offensive line, and as a result ranked eighth in the ACC in rushing offense and ninth in total offense.

Three starters return on the offensive line, but two are playing new positions. Brown, a 6-5, 290-pound senior, has been moved from right tackle to left tackle, while Ryan Shuman, a 6-3, 318-pound junior, has been moved from left guard to center. Sergio Render, a 6-3, 320-pound sophomore, returns at right guard.

Sophomore Ed Wang, a converted tight end, is competing against redshirt freshman Aaron Brown at right tackle. Junior Nick Marshman, a converted tackle, is battling with sophomore Eric Davis and junior Matt Welsh at left guard.

Tight end was an area of concern much of last season, but should be improved with the experience gained by sophomores Sam Wheeler and Greg Boone. Both are being pushed by Andre Smith, a 6-4, 238-pound freshman who sat out last season as a redshirt.

Ore, a 5-11, 202-pound junior, gained 1,137 yards on 241 carries and scored 16 touchdowns last season. He's strong and hard-nosed enough to gain tough yards inside but is also a touchdown threat every time he gets the ball.

Virginia Tech should have more depth at running back with the continued development of Kenny Lewis, a sophomore who gained 215 yards last season on 54 carries. Billy Hite, the Hokies' longtime running backs coach, says Lewis is among the hardest-working players he has ever coached.

But for Ore or Lewis to have a productive season, the Hokies will need to find a fullback who blocked as well as the departed Jesse Allen. Carlton Weatherford, a former walk-on, emerged from spring practice as the starter, but Kenny Jefferson, a redshirt sophomore, was known for his blocking ability in high school.

The Hokies, for a long time now, have been talented and they've been successful. This season they will also be inspired.

"I'll tell you one thing," Beamer says. "We absolutely will not give in to one person coming in here and causing all this pain and suffering. We're too proud of a group of people."

THE NEXT BIG THING

» KOREY ROBERTSON, DT

Described by his position coach as the best NFL prospect on the Hokies' defensive front. Should improve on his 16 tackles of last season.

RECRUITING REPORT

Two high school All-America offensive players (**Tyrod Taylor** and **Darren Evans**) highlight the Hokies' recruiting class, which includes 25 scholarship recipients.

Taylor (6-2, 185), a quarterback from the talent-rich Tidewater area of Hampton, Va., was a major in-state coup for Coach Frank Beamer and his staff. Taylor reminds some observers of former Virginia Tech quarterbacks Michael Vick and Bryan Randall, as he is a threat with his arm and legs. As a starter, Taylor passed for 5,144 yards and 44 touchdowns and rushed for 2,546 yards and 56 scores in his prep career.

Joining Taylor in the backfield is fullback Evans (6-1, 217), who hails from nationally ranked Warren Central High in Indianapolis. Evans not only helped Warren Central to four Class 5A state titles, but he also set a state record with 61 rushing touchdowns his senior year while gaining 2,806 rushing yards. For his efforts, he was named the 2006 EA Sports National Player of the Year.

Other key offensive players are linemen **Blake DeChristopher** (6-6, 310) and **Will Alvarez** (6-5, 315), a pair of touted in-state prospects, plus tight end **Greg Nosal** (6-5, 255), who could be converted to tackle.

Another running back with quality credentials is North Carolinian **Josh Oglesby** (6-0, 205).

Tech had the nation's No. 1 defense last season and hopes to carry on the tradition with defensive backs **Davon Morgan** (6-2, 190) and **Cris Hill** (5-11, 190).

Linebacker recruits include Florida-bred **Hunter Ovens** (6-2, 220) and in-state product **Quillie Odom** (6-2, 205).

—Doug Huff

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

2006 Record: 9-5 » **ACC: 7-1** *(lost to West Virginia in the Gator Bowl, 38-35)*

Stadium: Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000) **Tickets:** 888-TECH-TIX **Atlanta**

#2
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Chan Gailey**
6th year (37-27) **Career Record:** 61-38

Official athletic Web site: www.ramblinwreck.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@NOTRE DAME	10-14
S. 8	**Samford**	38-6
S. 15	**Boston College**	
S. 22	@VIRGINIA	24-7
S. 29	**Clemson**	7-31
O. 6	@MARYLAND	27-23
O. 13	@MIAMI (FL)	30-23
O. 20	**Army**	
N. 1	» **Virginia Tech**	**38-27**
N. 10	@DUKE	49-21
N. 17	**North Carolina**	7-0
N. 24	**Georgia**	12-15

» GAME TO WATCH «

A second straight victory over Virginia Tech could propel the Jackets to a second straight division crown.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9
2005	7
2004	7
2003	7
2002	7

CONFERENCE TITLE *BOWL* *NATIONAL TITLE*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **49/12**

» OFFENSE

QB	13	Taylor Bennett (6-3, 215, r-Jr.)
FB	40	Mike Cox (6-1, 250, Sr.)
TB	22	Tashard Choice (6-1, 205, r-Sr.)
LT	64	Andrew Gardner (6-6, 298, r-Jr.)
LG	61	Matt Rhodes (6-3, 280, r-Sr.)
C	60	Kevin Tuminello (6-4, 292, r-Sr.)
RG	73	Nate McManus (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RT	53	A.J. Smith (6-7, 300, r-Jr.)
TE	84	Colin Peek (6-6, 250, r-So.)
WR	89	James Johnson (6-0, 190, r-Jr.)
WR	8	Demaryius Thomas (6-3, 220, r-Fr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	90	Darrell Robertson (6-5, 245, Sr.)
DT	95	Darryl Richard (6-4, 285, r-Jr.)
DT	99	Vance Walker (6-2, 275, Jr.)
DE	42	Adamm Oliver (6-4, 270, r-Sr.)
LB	58	Gary Guyton (6-2, 240, Sr.)
LB	41	Philip Wheeler (6-2, 230, r-Sr.)
LB	57	Shane Bowen (6-1, 225, So.)
CB	34	Avery Roberson (6-2, 200, r-Sr.)
CB	32	Jahi Word-Daniels (6-0, 185, Jr.)
S	4	Jamal Lewis (6-0, 199, Sr.)
S	23	Djay Jones (6-1, 200, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	87	Travis Bell (6-0, 220, r-Sr.)
P	39	Durant Brooks (6-1, 202, r-Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	4

Yellow Jackets may have even more of a Ball on offense with a QB not named Reggie

Georgia Tech had a Ball in 2006, when it won the ACC's Coastal Division and was invited to play in a bowl for the 10th straight season.

And now that quarterback Reggie Ball is gone, the Yellow Jackets could have even more fun in 2007.

In what may well be the classic example of addition by subtraction, Georgia Tech promises to be more potent offensively this season than last. Losing Calvin Johnson, the ACC's Player of the Year, will hurt, but the blow might be softened by the simultaneous departure of Ball.

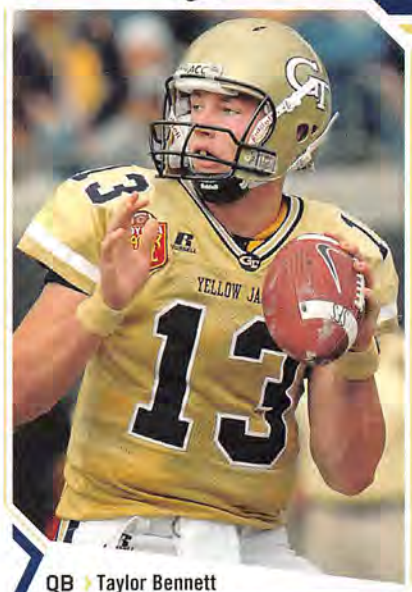
Though he started 49 games at Georgia Tech, including all 13 last season before being ruled academically ineligible for the Gator Bowl, Ball remained a controversial figure along Bobby Dodd Way. He was quick and elusive enough to make big plays, but erratic enough to throw 55 interceptions over his four years as a starter.

Ball's career ended badly. In his final two games against Georgia in the regular-season finale and Wake Forest in the ACC championship, Ball completed 15 of 51 passes while throwing four interceptions. And that was as good an explanation as any for why an offense that featured Johnson and running back Tashard Choice, the ACC's leading rusher, managed only 12 points against Georgia and six against Wake Forest.

Coach Chan Gailey's support for Ball remained steadfast, a position that wasn't exactly strengthened by the Yellow Jackets' performance against West Virginia in the Gator Bowl. Although Georgia Tech lost to the Mountaineers 38-35, Taylor Bennett, filling in for Ball, completed 19 of 29 passes for three touchdowns. His 326 yards passing were more than Bell's final three starts combined (293 yards).

"We know Taylor can get the job done," Choice says.

Bennett, a junior from St. Louis, is expected to win the job outright for this season. With consistent quarterback play from Bennett or one of the others competing to replace Ball (a list that includes freshman Steven Threet and redshirt freshman Byron Ingram), the Jackets could be potent offensively.



QB » Taylor Bennett

DENNIS HUBBARD

Choice, a 6-1, 205-pound senior, averaged 105.2 yards a game last season and scored 12 touchdowns. Fullback Mike Cox, an accomplished blocker who missed spring practices while recovering from shoulder surgery, returns as a senior. Junior James Johnson, the "Other Johnson" in the Yellow Jackets' receiving corps last season, caught 39 passes for 608 yards and seven touchdowns.

And four starters return on the offensive line—junior Andrew Gardner at tackle, seniors Matt Rhodes and Nate McManus at guard and senior Kevin Tuminello at center. Although Gardner is the most decorated of the group, all are experienced. The quartet has combined for 113 career starts.

John Bond, who has spent the last three seasons at Northern Illinois, replaced Patrick Nix as Georgia Tech's offensive coordinator after Nix left for an assistant's job at Miami. Bond's first-season priorities will be finding a right tackle, a tight end and a couple of receivers.

"We are keeping the same terminology and a lot of the same characteristics of our offense," Gailey says. "We'll be using a lot of the same formations and personnel groupings."

Junior A.J. Smith and sophomore Cord Howard are battling it out at tackle, though Howard missed spring practices because of shoulder surgery. Colin Peek, who was redshirted last season as a sophomore, is expected to

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	Ga. Tech	OPP
SCORING	349	257
Points Per Game	24.9	18.4
FIRST DOWNS	239	223
Rushing	116	75
Passing	102	126
Penalty	21	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	2274	1467
Yards gained rushing	2609	1878
Yards lost rushing	335	411
Rushing Attempts	526	445
Average Per Rush	4.3	3.3
Average Per Game	162.4	104.8
TDs Rushing	17	13
PASSING YARDAGE	2375	2741
Att-Comp-Int	369-174-16	461-238-13
Average Per Pass	6.4	5.9
Average Per Catch	13.6	11.5
Average Per Game	169.6	195.8
TDs Passing	25	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	4649	4208
Total Plays	895	906
Average Per Play	5.2	4.6
Average Per Game	332.1	300.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	42-815	50-1349
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	45-336	33-164
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-185	16-162
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.4	27.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.5	5.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	14.2	10.1
FUMBLES-LOST	20-6	24-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	86-713	97-847
Average Per Game	50.9	60.5
PUNTS-YARDS	79-3596	85-3461
Average Per Punt	45.5	40.7
Net punt average	40.7	35.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:51	30:09
3RD-DOWN CONVERSIONS	74/196	66/208
3rd-Down Pct	.378	.318
4TH-DOWN CONVERSIONS	6/12	9/15
4th-Down Pct	.500	.600
SACKS BY-YARDS	36-278	22-178
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	45	29
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-18	18-26
PAT-ATTEMPTS	43-43	27-28
ATTENDANCE	354321	339816
Games/Avg Per Game	7/50617	5/67963
Neutral Site Games		2/65282

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Georgia Tech	104	113	48	84	349
Opponent	43	70	75	69	257

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Reggie Ball

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	107.20	135-304-14	44.4	1820	20	140.0

Taylor Bennett

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	157.64	35-58-2	60.3	523	5	74.7

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tashard Choice	14	297	1473	5.0	12	105.2
Reggie Ball	13	122	354	2.9	2	27.2
Jamaal Evans	11	41	215	5.2	2	19.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Calvin Johnson	14	76	1202	15.8	15	85.9
James Johnson	14	39	608	15.6	7	43.4
Tashard Choice	14	12	98	8.2	0	7.0

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
KaMichael Hall	14	58	33	91
Philip Wheeler	14	52	37	89
Jamal Lewis	14	48	26	74

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Philip Wheeler	14	9.0	68
Michael Johnson	12	5.0	48
Joe Anoai	14	4.5	36

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Djay Jones	4	29	7.2	1
Jamal Lewis	3	134	44.7	1
Jahi Word-Daniels	2	2	1.0	0

settle in at tight end, while sophomore Greg Smith, junior Andrew Smith and redshirt freshmen Demaryius Thomas and Correy Earls are all hoping to crack the rotation at wide receiver. Thomas, at 6-3 and 220 pounds, presents a big target.

In 2006, the Yellow Jackets ranked sixth in the ACC in total defense, fifth in rushing defense, second in pass-efficiency defense and seventh in scoring defense. With three defensive linemen, two linebackers, two safeties and a cornerback returning from last year's starting lineup, the defense has a chance to be better.

Jon Tenuta, in his sixth season as Georgia Tech's defensive coordinator, will rely on two proven veterans at linebacker in seniors Philip Wheeler and Gary Guyton. Wheeler, who plays in the middle, was second on the Yellow Jackets with 89 tackles last season, and led the team with nine sacks and 14.5 tackles for loss. Guyton had 29 tackles, eight for losses, and returned a fumble for a touchdown in a victory over Virginia Tech.

"We have two returning linebackers who are very good players in Philip Wheeler and Gary Guyton," Gailey says. "We've got to find out who's going to fill that other spot, and we've got to find backups for all those guys."

Sophomore Shane Bowen, who played in 13 games last season, has the first crack at one outside-linebacker position. His main rival is Anthony Barnes, who redshirted last season as a freshman.

Both starting safeties, Jamal Lewis and Djay Jones, return this season, although Jones missed spring practice while recovering from a shoulder surgery. Lewis is the leader of the secondary after making first-team All-ACC last season with three interceptions and 74 tackles.

The hope is that junior Jahi Word-Daniels can get the job done at the cornerback spot opposite senior Avery Roberson (seven starts in '06), with help from senior Pat Clark. Word-Daniels started six games last year, including the Gator Bowl against West Virginia, and had two interceptions and 13 passes broken up.

The defensive line should be talented and deep. The leader is Adamm Oliver, a senior defensive end who made second-team All-ACC last season with 70 tackles, 11 of them for losses. On the other side, senior Darrell Robertson is expected to be a mainstay after starting four games in 2006.

Junior Michael Johnson, who played mostly on passing downs last season, provides quality depth on the corner.

The main issue will be who replaces Joe Anoai, a three-year starter at defensive tackle. Darryl Richard, a junior who started 13 games in 2006, is solid at one spot, and juniors Vance Walker and Elris Anyaibe are vying for playing time at the other.

"Probably the strongest area of our football team is our defensive line, with guys who have played quite a few plays," Gailey says. "You can never have too many defensive linemen. We've got some great speed up front, and we've got some bigger bodies than we've had in the past.

"We're looking forward to seeing how that all meshes together."

Georgia Tech's special teams are as special as any in the ACC. Punter Durant Brooks led the nation last season with 45.52 yards per punt and ranked second with a net of 40.67 yards. And kicker Travis Bell, who made 12 of 18 field-goal attempts last year, has successfully kicked 38 for his career. He ranks third in school history with 215 points.

Tech's experience should serve it well early. It opens at Notre Dame Sept. 1.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» TAYLOR BENNETT, QB

Proved by passing for 326 yards and three touchdowns in the Gator Bowl that he's ready to take over for the departed Reggie Ball.

RECRUITING REPORT

Coach Chan Gailey and his staff are all smiles after landing arguably the top Tech recruiting class in the last decade.

First-year Yellow Jackets include Georgia's Class 5A Offensive Player of the Year in running back **Jonathan Dwyer** (6-0, 197) from Kell High in Marietta, as well as defensive end **Derrick Morgan** (6-4, 275) from Coatesville, Pa., who enrolled in the spring, and safety **Morgan Burnett** (6-1, 182) from North Clayton High in College Park, Ga.

Replacing All-America wide receiver Calvin Johnson will be a tough task, but Texas product **Tyler Melton** (6-0, 182) could be the go-to guy of the future. If not, look for in-state product **D.J. Donley** (6-4, 218) to step forward. Both received high marks among recruiting analysts.

Quarterback Reggie Ball is also gone and his replacement could either be **Steven Threet** (6-5, 230) of Michigan or in-state recruit **Josh Nesbitt** (6-1, 204).

In an aggressive haul on defense, Tech landed end **Jason Peters** (6-4, 270) from Louisiana; defensive backs **Mario Butler** (6-2, 180) of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and **Jerrard Tarrant** (6-0, 187) of Carrollton, Ga.; and linebacker **Brad Jefferson** (6-2, 215) from Johnson County (Ga.) High, the alma mater of Heisman-winning former Georgia running back Herschel Walker.

The leading recruit for the offensive line is massive **Nick Claytor** (6-6, 312) from Gainesville, Ga.

Tech made the most out of the 20-scholarship limitation this recruiting season.

—Doug Huff

MIAMI HURRICANES

2006 Record: 7-6 » **ACC: 3-5** *(beat Nevada in the MPC Computers Bowl, 21-20)*

Stadium: Orange Bowl (72,319) **Tickets:** 800-GO-CANES **Coral Gables, Fla.**

 # 3
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Randy Shannon,** 1st year

Official athletic Web site: www.hurricanesports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Marshall**	
S. 8	@OKLAHOMA	
S. 15	**Florida International**	35-0
S. 20	**Texas A&M**	
S. 29	**Duke**	20-15
O. 6	@NORTH CAROLINA	27-7
O. 13	» **Georgia Tech**	23-30
O. 20	@FLORIDA STATE	10-13
N. 3	**North Carolina State**	
N. 10	**Virginia**	7-17
N. 17	@VIRGINIA TECH	10-17
N. 24	@BOSTON COLLEGE	17-14

» GAME TO WATCH «

The kind of showdown game the Hurricanes lost last season. Can a new coach make the difference?

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7	
2005	9	
2004	9	
2003	11	
2002	12	

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **67/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	3	Kyle Wright (6-4, 220, Sr.)
FB	41	Jerrell Mabry (6-1, 266, So.)
TB	5	Javarris James (6-0, 210, So.)
LT	64	Jason Fox (6-6, 265, So.)
LG	72	Andrew Bain (6-3, 330, Sr.)
C	70	A.J. Trump (6-3, 294, So.)
RG	71	Derrick Morse (6-4, 326, Sr.)
RT	77	Reggie Youngblood (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	88	Chris Zellner (6-2, 238, Jr.)
WR	83	Sam Shields (6-0, 177, So.)
WR	9	Lance Leggett (6-3, 188, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	94	Eric Moncur (6-2, 260, Jr.)
LT	96	Antonio Dixon (6-3, 335, Jr.)
RT	54	Teraz McCray (6-1, 300, Sr.)
RE	81	Calais Campbell (6-8, 282, Jr.)
SLB	44	Colin McCarthy (6-3, 222, So.)
MLB	50	Darryl Sharpton (5-11, 227, So.)
WLB	55	Glenn Cook (6-0, 215, Sr.)
LCB	4	Glenn Sharpe (6-0, 187, Sr.)
RCB	6	Randy Phillips (6-0, 195, Jr.)
FS	35	Lovon Ponder (6-0, 207, Jr.)
SS	1	Kenny Phillips (6-2, 202, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	25	Matt Bosher (6-0, 170, r-Fr.)
P	25	Matt Bosher (6-0, 170, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	2

With one of their own as coach, 'Canes look to recapture glory

Success, as the football programs of Duke and Miami reminded us last season, is a relative term.

At Duke, where the Blue Devils finished 0-12 and ran their conference losing streak to 17, Coach Ted Roof was retained. At Miami, where the Hurricanes finished 7-6, Coach Larry Coker was fired.

This was the same Larry Coker whose record in six seasons at Miami was 60-15. This was the same Larry Coker whose Hurricanes won the national title in 2001 and played for the championship again in 2002. This was the same Larry Coker with three years remaining on his contract, one that paid him a reported $2 million a season.

But in making the announcement that Coker's services would no longer be required, Athletics Director Paul Dee made it clear the decision was related to the Hurricanes' 12 losses in the past three years. Miami, which won its first 25 games with Coker as coach, was 9-3 in both 2004 and 2005.

So it all comes now to Randy Shannon, a four-year letterman at Miami who played linebacker for the 1987 national champions. For the past six seasons, Shannon has been the Hurricanes' defensive coordinator, and has performed so well in that role that his defense has been ranked in the top seven in the nation five times.

If the recruiting rankings over Coker's tenure at Miami are to be believed, the requisite talent appears to be on hand to win. The Hurricanes have nine starters returning on offense, including receiver Lance Leggett and running back Javarris James. They have eight starters back on defense, led by defensive end Calais Campbell and safety Kenny Phillips.

Leggett caught 38 passes last year for 584 yards. James, in his first season of college football, gained 802 yards on 175 carries. Campbell ranked No. 15 in Division I-A with 10.5 sacks, while Phillips had 71 tackles and four interceptions despite missing three games with a broken thumb.

There are five new coaches on staff, including Patrick Nix, the former Auburn quarterback. As offensive coordinator, the position he held the past two seasons at Georgia Tech, Nix spent the spring judging the quarterback battle between Kyle Wright and Kirby Freeman.

Wright started the first nine games in 2006, completing 152 of 250 passes for 1,655 yards. He threw seven interceptions—not bad for so many attempts—but only eight touchdown passes. Freeman started the final four games, which Wright missed because of a broken thumb. Freeman completed 59 of 108 passes for 872 yards, but threw eight interceptions and just seven touchdowns.

Either choice would benefit from increased production in the ground game. The Hurricanes were sixth in the ACC last season in total offense, despite finishing third in passing. James has been favorably compared with his cousin, Edgerrin James, the former Miami rushing star and current Arizona Cardinal. One year removed from high school, Javarris gained 148 yards against Houston, 111 against North Carolina and 113 against Georgia Tech.

The offensive line should be more experienced, with four starters returning. And if Sam Shields can improve on his performance as a true freshman, when he caught 37 passes for 501 yards, then he and Leggett could give the Hurricanes the best receiving combo in the ACC.

For all of their disappointments a year ago, the Hurricanes still ranked No. 7 in the country in total defense and No. 13 in scoring defense. Eight starters return on that side of the ball—two linemen, two linebackers and the entire secondary.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **GRAIG COOPER, RB**

True freshman has the ability to start for as long as he's at Miami. Averaged almost 13 yards a carry in high school.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Graig Cooper, RB, 6-0, 195**
   Touted as nation's top prep-school recruit.
2. **Robert Marve, QB, 6-1, 190**
   Prep All-American was a late Hurricane catch.
3. **Chris Perry, DT, 6-3, 319**
   Texan could be dominant force inside.
4. **Daniel Adderley, WR, 6-6, 215**
   Huge receiving target for incoming QB Marve.
5. **Joseph Nicolas, DB, 6-3, 198**
   Could be next super 'Cane safety.

#4 VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 5-7 » ACC: 4-4

Charlottesville Stadium: Scott Stadium (61,500) Tickets: 800-542-UVA1

Al Groh will walk the line in Charlottesville with the help of a massive one

Coming off of last season's 5-7 record, Coach Al Groh of Virginia has a lot on the line.

He has experience, talent and uncommon depth—and that's just the offensive line. The defensive line looks pretty stout as well.

If football games are won up front, as the adage goes, then the Cavaliers should close the 2007 season with a return to bowl play. No team in the league has more players back along the offensive and defensive lines.

On offense, returning starting tackles Will Barker and Eugene Monroe, hold-over starting guards Branden Albert and Ian-Yates Cunningham and returning center Jordy Lipsey will be blocking for quarterback Jameel Sewell, who should be better as a sophomore than he was in nine starts as a freshman.

In those nine starts, Sewell was good enough to complete 57.9 percent of his passes for 1,342 yards, throw just six interceptions on 247 attempts and rank second among ACC quarterbacks with 200 yards rushing. Sewell had offseason surgery on his right throwing wrist, but was still able to participate in spring practices.

On defense, ends Chris Long and Jeffrey Fitzgerald and nose tackle Allen Billyk should occupy enough blockers to free the four starters returning at linebacker and two at safety for clean lanes to the runner. Long, who made second-team All-ACC last year, is a candidate for all the major postseason awards.

Depth on the offensive line will be provided by tackle Zak Stair, who started seven games in 2006. Depth on the D-line will come from Nate Collins, the only first-year freshman to play for the Cavaliers last season.

Fans disappointed by last year's performance, which included a home loss to Western Michigan and a road loss at East Carolina, could see better days ahead. Almost every starter is expected back, with the exception of cornerback Marcus Hamilton, running back Jason Snelling and wide receivers Fontel Mines and Kevin Ogletree. Ogletree was only a junior last year when he caught 52 passes for 582 yards, but will most likely have to sit out a season after tearing a knee ligament in the spring.

So it's not like Groh is without his concerns. He'll enter this season with no proven receivers. Unless Andrew Pearman returns after withdrawing from school last December, the Cavaliers won't have a receiver with more than six catches.

Pearman, whose 2006 season was ended by a knee injury, caught seven passes for 34 yards in four games. Junior Maurice Covington caught six for 45 yards in 12 games. The lack of experience might give incoming freshman Kris Burd a chance to play immediately. Burd had 958 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns last season as a Virginia prep star.

Playing last season with a rookie quarterback, the Cavaliers ranked last in the ACC with 254.6 yards a game and 11th with an average of 15.1 points per game. Snelling led Virginia with a respectable-enough 772 yards on 183 carries, but had his biggest games against the weaker teams—Duke (92 yards), East Carolina (103), North Carolina (131) and N.C. State (99). In the Cavaliers' final three games against Florida State, Miami and Virginia Tech, Snelling averaged 46 yards a game and 2.6 yards a carry.

Two years ago, Virginia ranked sixth in the ACC in rushing and as recently as 2004 the Cavaliers led the league and ranked ninth nationally with 242.8 rushing yards a game. For Groh to get that kind of ground production again, the line will have to develop and a featured back will have to emerge.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» EUGENE MONROE, OT

A *Parade* All-American in high school, Monroe appears ready for stardom after an inconsistent sophomore season. Should settle in at left tackle for the Cavs.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Ras-I Dowling, WR/DB, 6-2, 180**
   Prep-school star could make immediate impact.
2. **Peter Lalich, QB, 6-5, 235**
   Cavaliers' signal-caller of future.
3. **J'Courtney Williams, DB, 6-3, 218**
   In-state talent could blossom soon.
4. **Terence Fells-Danzer, RB/LB, 6-1, 220**
   Like Williams, a back-yard bright spot.
5. **Corey Mosley, RB/DB, 5-10, 195**
   He's a find-a-position-type player.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	2
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	3

» Head Coach: Al Groh
7th year (42-33) Career Record: 68-73

Official athletic Web site: www.virginiasports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@WYOMING	13-12 (OT)
S. 8	**Duke**	37-0
S. 15	@NORTH CAROLINA	23-0
S. 22	» **Georgia Tech**	7-24
S. 29	**Pittsburgh**	13-38
O. 6	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
O. 13	**Connecticut**	
O. 20	@MARYLAND	26-28
O. 27	@N.C. STATE	14-7
N. 3	**Wake Forest**	
N. 10	@MIAMI (FL)	17-7
N. 24	**Virginia Tech**	0-17

» GAME TO WATCH «

May well be the only conference contender the 'Hoos play before November.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	5	
2005	7	C
2004	8	C B
2003	8	C B
2002	9	C B

C CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL N NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **21**
Lettermen returning/lost: **35/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Jameel Sewell (6-3, 219, So.)
FB	31	Rashawn Jackson (6-1, 254, So.)
TB	37	Cedric Peerman (5-10, 205, Jr.)
LT	75	Eugene Monroe (6-6, 315, Jr.)
LG	71	Branden Albert (6-7, 315, Jr.)
C	63	Jordy Lipsey (6-3, 280, Sr.)
RG	77	Ian-Yates Cunningham (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RT	61	Will Barker (6-7, 306, So.)
TE	86	Tom Santi (6-5, 250, Sr.)
WR	26	Cary Koch (6-0, 198, Jr.)
WR	80	Maurice Covington (6-4, 215, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	95	Jeffrey Fitzgerald (6-3, 279, So.)
NT	94	Allen Billyk (6-4, 287, Sr.)
DE	91	Chris Long (6-4, 284, Sr.)
OLB	51	Clint Sintim (6-3, 256, Jr.)
ILB	54	Jon Copper (6-0, 232, Jr.)
ILB	58	Antonio Appleby (6-4, 248, Jr.)
OLB	57	Jermaine Dias (6-1, 237, Sr.)
CB	28	Mike Brown (5-9, 180, Jr.)
CB	26	Chris Cook (6-2, 204, Jr.)
S	22	Byron Glaspy (5-11, 203, Jr.)
S	30	Nate Lyles (6-0, 203, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	9	Chris Gould (6-1, 204, Sr.)
P	16	Ryan Weigand (6-2, 181, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

5 PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Butch Davis
1st year
Career Record: 51-20
Stadium: Kenan Stadium
Tickets: 800-722-HEEL
Capacity: 60,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.tarheelblue.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 3
2005 — 5
2004 — 6 (C)
2003 — 2
2002 — 3

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**James Madison**	
S. 8	@EAST CAROLINA	
S. 15	**Virginia**	0-23
S. 22	@SOUTH FLA.	20-37
S. 29	@VIRGINIA TECH	10-35
O. 6	**Miami (FL)**	7-27
O. 13	**South Carolina**	
O. 27	@WAKE FOREST	17-24
N. 3	**Maryland**	
N. 10	@N.C. STATE	23-9
N. 17	@GEORGIA TECH	0-7
N. 24	**Duke**	45-44

GAME TO WATCH

Butch Davis could raise expectations in a hurry with a victory over the rival Wahoos.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **10**
Lettermen returning/lost: **46/16**

OFFENSE

QB	13	T.J. Yates (6-3, 205, r-Fr.)
FB	4	Bobby Rome (5-11, 240, So.)
TB	26	Richie Rich (5-9, 190, So.)
LT	72	Kyle Jolly (6-6, 305, So.)
LG	76	Bryon Bishop (6-3, 300, Jr.)
C	64	Scott Lenahan (6-1, 290, Sr.)
RG	79	Calvin Darity (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RT	75	Garrett Reynolds (6-7, 300, Jr)
TE	89	Richard Quinn (6-4, 235, So.)
WR	88	Hakeem Nicks (6-1, 210, So.)
WR	87	Brandon Tate (6-1, 190, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LE	33	Hilee Taylor (6-3, 241, Sr.)
DT	74	Kyndraus Guy (6-2, 280, Sr.)
DT	90	Kentwan Balmer (6-5, 288, Sr.)
RE	92	E.J. Wilson (6-2, 260, So.)
SLB	44	Chase Rice (6-3, 215, Jr.)
MLB	51	Wesley Flagg (6-0, 215, So.)
WLB	48	Durell Mapp (6-2, 225, Sr.)
CB	38	Jermaine Strong (5-10, 185, So.)
CB	16	Kendric Burney (5-9, 175, r-Fr.)
FS	31	Trimane Goddard (5-11, 192, Jr.)
SS	20	Shaun Draughn (6-0, 195, r-Fr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Connor Barth (6-1, 190, Sr.)
P	86	John Choate (6-2, 190, Sr.)

The NCAA allows each Division I football team to practice 15 times in the spring.

Jim Grobe, heading into his seventh season at Wake Forest, was satisfied with 14.

Butch Davis, heading into his first season at North Carolina, used all 15 and was anxious for more.

Davis recognizes the enormity of the challenge of restoring the tradition of North Carolina football, which hasn't enjoyed a winning season since 2001. But to grow on the fan base again, the Tar Heels will first have to grow up.

When they staged a spring game in April, there were only three seniors on the first-team defense and one on the starting offense. There are only 10 scholarship seniors on the roster.

In lieu of experience, Davis hopes to beat teams with speed. That's his focus on the current roster, and his focus in recruiting. He'll sacrifice size and strength for speed, if necessary.

Davis, coming out of spring, had yet to settle on a starting quarterback. In fact, he hadn't settled on a starter at many positions, hoping to keep the competition raging right up through August drills.

One player not likely to start at quarterback is senior Joe Dailey, who shared the position last season with Cameron Sexton. Dailey has been moved to wide receiver, leaving sophomore Sexton to battle it out with redshirt freshmen T.J. Yates and B.J. Phillips and incoming freshman Mike Paulus, a high school All-American and brother of Duke basketball point guard Greg Paulus.

Dailey is just one of several Tar Heels who will be playing new positions next season as Davis and his staff plot to put their best 22 players on the field. Junior Joey Bozich has been moved from fullback to linebacker, while junior Nick Starcevic has been moved from fullback to defensive end.

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

6 PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Ted Roof
4th year (5-34)
Career Record: 5-34
Stadium: Wallace Wade Stadium
Tickets: 877-375-DUKE
Capacity: 33,941
Official athletic Web site:
www.goduke.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 0
2005 — 1
2004 — 2
2003 — 4
2002 — 2

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Connecticut**	
S. 8	@VIRGINIA	0-37
S. 15	@NORTHWESTERN	
S. 22	@NAVY	13-38
S. 29	@MIAMI (FL)	15-20
O. 6	**Wake Forest**	13-14
O. 13	**Virginia Tech**	0-36
O. 27	@FLORIDA STATE	24-51
N. 3	**Clemson**	
N. 10	**Georgia Tech**	21-49
N. 17	@NOTRE DAME	
N. 24	@NORTH CAROLINA	44-45

GAME TO WATCH

Any ACC win would be sweet, but the sweetest (and perhaps most obtainable) would be against the rivals in Chapel Hill. Will Roof cave in by then?

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **18**
Lettermen returning/lost: **44/16**

OFFENSE

QB	9	Thaddeus Lewis (6-2, 190, So.)
HB	2	Tielor Robinson (5-11, 245, Sr.)
RB	20	Justin Boyle (6-1, 215, Sr.)
LT	74	Cameron Goldberg (6-6, 280, Jr.)
LG	60	Zach Maurides (6-6, 290, Sr.)
C	68	Matt Rumsey (6-4, 285, Sr.)
RG	61	Rob Schirmann (6-5, 285, Jr.)
RT	70	Fred Roland (6-8, 310, Jr.)
TE	80	Nick Stefanow (6-4, 235, Sr.)
WR	15	Eron Riley (6-3, 200, Jr.)
WR	81	Jomar Wright (6-1, 200, Sr.)

DEFENSE

DE	91	Ayanga Okpokowuruk (6-4, 255, So.)
DT	3	Vince Oghobaase (6-6, 310, So.)
NG	97	Clifford Respress (6-4, 275, Jr.)
DE	84	Patrick Bailey (6-4, 235, Sr.)
SLB	45	Charles Robinson (6-2, 215, Jr.)
MLB	34	Michael Tauiliili (5-11, 235, Jr.)
WLB	53	Vincent Rey (6-0, 255, So.)
CB	22	Rodney Ezzard (5-11, 180, Sr.)
CB	7	Leon Wright (5-9, 165, So.)
FS	27	Chris Davis (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS	28	Adrian Aye-Darko (6-2, 210, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	49	Kevin Jones (6-3, 185, r-Fr.)
P	26	Joe Surgan (6-4, 210, Jr.)

Fred Goldsmith, the last man to coach Duke to a winning record, has since been a color analyst for Western Carolina University football games, coached a high school tucked away in the North Carolina mountains to five very successful seasons and been hired as the new football coach at Division II Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory, N.C.

A lot can happen in 13 years.

The problem for Duke, though, is nothing appears to be happening with its football program—or at least nothing worth text-messaging home about.

A "football summit," as it was called, was held in January. Former players and longtime supporters were invited to ask Coach Ted Roof about the direction of the program and what it was going to take to break the string of 12 straight losing seasons, four of them winless. The gathering was not open to the media, but those who attended declared themselves satisfied with Roof's responses.

But when the name of your school becomes synonymous with college football futility, any plan for improvement is going to take time and patience and great fortune to implement.

Of the 11 starters returning on offense, the one whose status is in the most jeopardy may be sophomore quarterback Thaddeus Lewis. He threw 16 interceptions last year in 11 starts, but had enough bright moments to complete 180 of 340 passes for 2,134 yards.

Lewis was impressive early, completing 15 of 24 passes for 148 yards against Richmond and 21 of 32 throws for 305 yards against Wake Forest. He enters this season in a battle with Zack Asack, who started six games in 2005 but was suspended last season for plagiarism. Helping Roof make the decision will be Peter Vaas, Duke's new offensive coordinator who was recently QB coach at Notre Dame.

BIG EAST

www.bigeast.org

Four years after ACC raid, Big East football is now a beast and, of all things, overexposed

By **PETE WILLIAMS** *Street & Smith's correspondent*

Just two years ago, some college football observers believed the Big East didn't deserve an automatic BCS bowl bid. After last season, some wonder if one is enough.

With West Virginia and Louisville now perennial national powers and Rutgers and South Florida among the nation's top upstart teams, nobody wants to face the Big East. The eight teams went 32-8 in regular-season non-conference games last season, including 5-0 in bowls.

The Big East's television deal with ESPN, which runs through 2013, is a brilliant marketing tool since it all but ensures that football fans will be focused on the conference Thursday and Friday nights in the fall. The Big East had 29 games on ABC, ESPN or ESPN2 last year—way more than the league's minimum guarantee of 17.

This season, Louisville plays six games on Thursday or Friday nights. Rutgers will play before Saturday five times and West Virginia on three occasions.

West Virginia and Louisville again look like the class of the conference, with their explosive, high-powered offenses. The Mountaineers will again unleash their spread-option attack featuring QB Patrick White and tailback Steve Slaton. The Cardinals lost Coach Bobby Petrino and Michael Bush to the NFL, but with QB Brian Brohm back, Louisville again looks like a top-10 power.

Greg Schiano stunned many when he turned down a coaching job at Miami in favor of staying at Rutgers, where he has built the most unlikely success story in college football. The Scarlet Knights lost several key figures from last season's team, but tailback Ray Rice should keep the program on the winning track.

South Florida could be this year's breakout program after a 9-4 season that included an upset of West Virginia and the Bulls' first bowl victory. Cincinnati was a surprise in 2006, grabbing the fifth Big East bowl bid, and a return to the postseason is likely. Pittsburgh Coach Dave Wannstedt has recruited too much talent not to contend in 2007, even with some key losses.

Syracuse Coach Greg Robinson's West Coast offense may be a year away from effectiveness, but should be fun to watch. As for Connecticut, there's no way the Huskies can endure more adversity than last season. But they might be hard-pressed to avoid the conference cellar.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1. WEST VIRGINIA — P. 44, STOCK: UP
2. LOUISVILLE — P. 46, STOCK: STEADY
3. RUTGERS — P. 48, STOCK: STEADY
4. SOUTH FLORIDA — P. 49, STOCK: UP
5. CINCINNATI — P. 50, STOCK: UP
6. PITTSBURGH — P. 50, STOCK: DOWN
7. SYRACUSE — P. 51, STOCK: STEADY
8. CONNECTICUT — P. 51, STOCK: DOWN

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. WEST VIRGINIA ▸ Late pickup of Florida running back Noel Devine vaults Mountaineers to the top. Added other RBs and QBs to groom behind Steve Slaton and Patrick White.

2. PITTSBURGH ▸ Another stellar haul for Coach Dave Wannstedt, headed by Pennsylvania products QB Pat Bostick, OG Chris Jacobson and WR Maurice Williams. Bostick and RB LeSean McCoy could start immediately.

3. RUTGERS ▸ The Scarlet Knights' success means New Jersey talent is no longer fleeing the state. Linebacker Manny Abreu could play right away. Offensive tackle Anthony Davis is also a big score.

4. SOUTH FLORIDA ▸ FSU, Miami and Florida might have landed top-25 classes, but the Bulls continue to make inroads in the Sunshine State. Top signees include QB Alton Voss, center Sampson Genus and LB Calvin Sutton.

5. LOUISVILLE ▸ Bobby Petrino's departure might have hurt the class. The Cards added a pair of running backs in hometown product Victor Anderson and Dale Martin of Bolingbrook, Ill.

6. CONNECTICUT ▸ Bolstered weak passing attack with TE Yianni Apostolakos. Defensive tackle Danny Russell and DB Jonathan Jean-Louis will also contribute early.

7. SYRACUSE ▸ Passing offense gets a boost with WR Da'Mon Merkerson and QB Cody Catalina. Defensive tackle Bud Tribbey and safety Max Suter should also help.

8. CINCINNATI ▸ Bearcats signed mostly second-tier players, but might have found the QB of the future in Chazz Anderson, along with a big WR weapon in Adrien Robinson.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-BIG EAST TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Brian Brohm, Sr., Louisville	Terrill Byrd, Jr., Cincinnati	DL
RB	Ray Rice, Jr., Rutgers	Eric Foster, Sr., Rutgers	DL
RB	Steve Slaton, Jr., West Virginia	Jameel McClain, Sr., Syracuse	DL
OL	Jeremy Zuttah, Sr., Rutgers	Keilen Dykes, Sr., West Virginia	DL
OL	Trevor Canfield, Jr., Cincinnati	Malik Jackson, Sr., Louisville	LB
OL	Eric Wood, Jr., Louisville	Ben Moffitt, Sr., South Florida	LB
OL	George Bussey, Jr., Louisville	Danny Lansanah, Sr., Connecticut	LB
OL	Pedro Sosa, Sr., Rutgers	Mike Mickens, Jr., Cincinnati	DB
WR	Harry Douglas, Sr., Louisville	Eric Wicks, Sr., West Virginia	DB
WR	Derek Kinder, Sr., Pittsburgh	Trae Williams, Sr., South Florida	DB
TE	Gary Barnidge, Sr., Louisville	Courtney Greene, Jr., Rutgers	DB
PK	Art Carmody, Sr., Louisville	Dave Brytus, Jr., Pittsburgh	P

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner will come out of the Big East from this pool: Louisville's Brian Brohm, Rutgers' Ray Rice and West Virginia's Patrick White and Steve Slaton.
2. Just as South Florida shocked Louisville in 2005 and West Virginia in 2006, the Bulls will stun a top-20 opponent again this season. Only this time it will be out of conference (Auburn, Sept. 8).
3. The Big East will lead the nation in impact transfers, including Cincinnati quarterback Ben Mauk (Wake Forest), USF linebacker Tyrone McKenzie (Iowa State) and Pitt punter Dave Brytus (Purdue).
4. Andrew Robinson (Syracuse) and Pat Bostick (Pitt) will continue the Big East's recent trend of young quarterbacks making an immediate impact.

RATING THE PLAYERS

BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN

FASTEST RECEIVER	Tim Brown, Rutgers
BEST HANDS	Mario Urrutia, WR, Louisville
BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK	Brian Brohm, Louisville
BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK	Patrick White, West Virginia
MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK	Ray Rice, Rutgers
BEST INSTINCTS	Steve Slaton, RB, West Virginia
BEST ATHLETE	Amarri Jackson, WR, South Florida
BEST UNDER PRESSURE	Matt Grothe, QB, South Florida
TOP NFL PROSPECT	Brian Brohm, QB, Louisville
TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN	Pat Bostick, QB, Pittsburgh
HARDEST HITTER	Malik Jackson, LB, Louisville
BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER	Mike Jenkins, CB, South Florida

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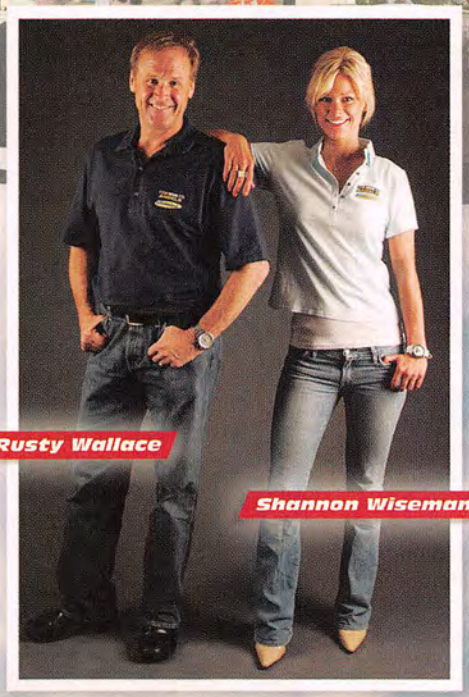
NASCAR ANGELS



A New Reality TV Show.

In the new show NASCAR Angels, technicians work their magic on cars to provide families with desperately needed transportation. Hosted by Rusty Wallace and Shannon Wiseman, NASCAR Angels will also feature a different driver each week. Don't miss it!

Don't miss the NASCAR Angels as they appear on local broadcast stations nationwide (check local listings) and Superstation WGN on Saturdays (1pm EST).

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BCS BOWL

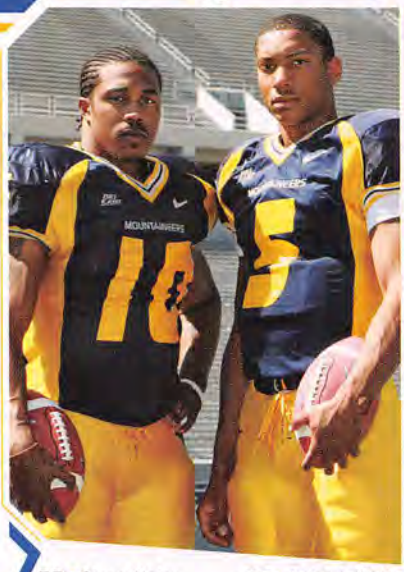
#1 WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

TOP 25 SELECTION

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 11-2 » **Big East:** 5-2 *(beat Georgia Tech in the Gator Bowl, 38-35)*

Morgantown **Stadium:** Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000) **Tickets:** 800-WVU-GAME



RB › Steve Slaton QB › Patrick White

Dynamic backfield duo has Rodriguez 'Neer place in national championship game

Everything looked to be in place for the Mountaineers in 2006. But a season that began 7-0 crumbled quickly after a tough loss at Louisville on Nov. 2. Then three weeks later, West Virginia lost at home to South Florida and finished the year without at least a share of the Big East championship for the first time since 2002.

The Mountaineers handled that adversity by keeping Rutgers from winning the Big East title in a triple-overtime regular-season finale and winning their first Gator Bowl in six tries over a Georgia Tech team that won the ACC Coastal Division.

It speaks volumes about how far Coach Rich Rodriguez has taken his alma mater in six years that an 11-win season, a final top-10 national ranking and an elusive Gator Bowl victory now is viewed as a disappointment in Morgantown.

"There should be expectations when you've worked to build a program up and have had some success," Rodriguez says.

Still, it's not like fans are complaining. The team's 30 wins over the last three seasons is the best three-year stretch in school history. And despite all the talk of parity in the Big East and upstarts such as USF and Rutgers, the Mountaineers remain the team to beat heading into 2007, even though they must deal with significant losses at safety, linebacker, wide receiver and offensive line. The team also avoided a huge loss when Rodriguez turned down overtures from Alabama and signed a contract extension through 2014 that reportedly will pay close to $2 million a year. School officials promised Rodriguez that they would upgrade the facilities to keep up with the college football arms race.

The Mountaineers will rank among the preseason favorites to win the national title because their roster includes the best quarterback/tailback tandem in the country in juniors Patrick White and Steve Slaton, both Heisman Trophy front-runners.

After just 17 starts, White already owns the conference career rushing record for a quarterback (2,171 yards), running for 1,219 yards and 18 touchdowns last season. He added 1,655 yards and 13 TDs through the air to become the Big East Offensive Player of the Year. Despite playing through an assortment of injuries, he led the Mountaineers from a 35-17 deficit to a victory over Georgia Tech in the Gator Bowl.

The Mountaineers are 40-for-43 in the red zone under White, whose pass efficiency rating of 159.73 last season would have ranked him among the top 12 in the nation had he made just one more attempt. White also was seventh in the nation in scoring and 24th in total offense.

In 2006, Slaton finished fourth in Heisman Trophy balloting and was named first-team All-America after rushing for a school-record 1,744 yards—this despite playing with an ailing right wrist. Slaton wasn't scheduled to participate in spring contact drills, but is expected to be ready for August practice.

If this proves to be Slaton's last season in the college ranks, West Virginia will be in good shape, having landed top recruit Noel Devine out of Fort Myers, Fla. Bruising fullback Owen Schmitt, a senior, gives Rodriguez another powerful weapon. Schmitt rushed 65 times for 351 yards (5.4 average) and seven touchdowns, including 109 yards in the Gator Bowl. Schmitt is also expected to line up as a tight end in some formations this season.

On the offensive line, the Mountaineers must find a way to replace center Dan Mozes and guard Jeremy Sheffey.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	5

» **Head Coach:** Rich Rodriguez
7th year (50-24) **Career Record:** 50-24 (Division I-A)

Official athletic Web site: www.msnsportsnet.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Western Michigan**	
S. 8	@MARSHALL	42-10
S. 13	@MARYLAND	45-24
S. 22	**East Carolina**	27-10
S. 28	» **@SOUTH FLORIDA**	19-24
O. 6	@SYRACUSE	41-17
O. 20	**Mississippi State**	42-14
O. 27	@RUTGERS	41-39 (3OT)
N. 8	**Louisville**	34-44
N. 17	@CINCINNATI	42-24
N. 24	**Connecticut**	37-11
D. 1	**Pittsburgh**	45-27

GAME TO WATCH

The Mountaineers will either avenge last year's loss or see their national-title hopes damaged early in their Big East opener on a Friday night national TV game.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11	C
2005	11	C, B
2004	8	C, B
2003	8	C, B
2002	9	C

C CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL N NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **41/27**

» OFFENSE

QB	5	Patrick White (6-2, 185, Jr.)
FB	35	Owen Schmitt (6-3, 260, Sr.)
TB	10	Steve Slaton (5-10, 190, Jr.)
LT	62	Ryan Stanchek (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	79	Greg Isdaner (6-4, 315, So.)
C	68	Mike Dent (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RG	70	Eric Rodemoyer (6-4, 300, r-Fr.)
RT	73	Jake Figner (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	88	Michael Villagrana (6-4, 260, Sr.)
WR	2	Darius Reynaud (5-10, 205, Sr.)
WR	12	Nate Sowers (6-2, 215, So.)

» DEFENSE

DT	96	Keilen Dykes (6-5, 295, Sr.)
NT	99	Thor Merrow (6-1, 240, So.)
DE	92	Johnny Dingle (6-3, 270, Sr.)
WLB	55	Bobby Hathaway (6-1, 230, Sr.)
MLB	47	Reed Williams (6-2, 225, Jr.)
SLB	53	Marc Magro (6-3, 240, Sr.)
CB	19	Vaughn Rivers (5-9, 170, Sr.)
CB	6	Antonio Lewis (5-10, 185, Sr.)
BS	41	Eric Wicks (6-1, 205, Sr.)
FS	8	Quinton Andrews (6-0, 205, So.)
SS	22	Ridwan Malik (6-1, 205, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	40	Pat McAfee (6-1, 220, Jr.)
P	40	Pat McAfee (6-1, 220, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

THE NEXT BIG THING

» DOUG SLAVONIC, DE

Highly regarded end missed most of 2006 with injuries. Should make a big impact as a junior in 2007.

Greg Frey, a former South Florida assistant, takes over for Offensive Line Coach Rick Trickett, who left for Florida State. Given the success Trickett had operating within Rodriguez's increasingly popular spread offense, there might not be much drop-off, especially with the return of three starters: second-team all-conference tackle Ryan Stanchek, tackle Jake Figner and guard Greg Isdaner, a freshman All-American. Mike Dent, who came to West Virginia as a highly regarded defensive end, is expected to succeed Mozes.

Given the run-first philosophy of the spread and the success of Slaton and White, the team's deep corps of receivers often gets overlooked. Though the Mountaineers haven't had a big-time standout at the position since Chris Henry departed for the NFL in 2005, senior Darius Reynaud (39 catches, 520 yards) shows such promise. He headlines a talented if inexperienced group who sometimes line up in sets featuring three and even four receivers. A group of receivers featuring not a single player with 10 catches in 2006 must replace Brandon Myles (36 catches, 522 yards, 8 TDs).

Adam Bednarik, the Mountaineers' starting quarterback as recently as 2005, will possibly make the move to wide receiver after enduring two shoulder surgeries. There's always a chance he could line up back at quarterback given Rodriguez's penchant for trick plays.

Because of the flashy offense, Defensive Coordinator Jeff Casteel's unit often got overlooked in recent years. In 2005, it ranked in the top 20 nationally in total yards allowed, points allowed and rushing yards. Last season, the defense allowed an average of 21.7 points per game. Rodriguez plans to stick with his unusual 3-3-5 "Odd Stack" configuration, which features three safeties, including a strong safety who acts as a hybrid outside linebacker. Any of the back eight can blitz or cover.

All-conference defensive tackle Keilen Dykes (32 tackles) anchors an experienced defensive line that includes fellow senior Johnny Dingle, junior Doug Slavonic and sophomore Thor Merrow. Slavonic was expected to step in as a full-time starter last year, but was hampered by ankle injuries.

Senior Bobby Hathaway is the only returning starting linebacker. Gone are Jay Henry and Kevin "Boo" McLee and his 79 tackles. Senior Marc Magro and junior Reed Williams are the leading candidates to replace them.

The secondary was a big concern entering 2006 and the inexperienced unit was exposed in the losses to Louisville and South Florida. The Mountaineers gave up 243.3 passing yards per game and it appears only fifth-year senior safety Eric Wicks (73 tackles) is assured of a starting job. Free safety Quinton Andrews, a Freshman All-American who led the team in tackles, figures to start, as does senior Ridwan Malik. The Mountaineers have experience at the corners with seniors Antonio Lewis and Vaughn Rivers.

Lewis and Rivers are also the team's top two return men, giving the Mountaineers one of the nation's most potent special teams. Rivers earned second-team all-conference honors as a returner last season, averaging 22.5 yards per kickoff. Reliable kicker Pat McAfee is now a junior.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Mountaineers saved their best recruit for last when national top-10 running back prospect **Noel Devine** committed in the spring. The 5-8, 170-pound speedster from North Fort Myers, Fla., gives last year's Gator Bowl champions a speed back in the mold of current All-American Steve Slaton.

Devine, however, isn't the only highly rated prospect in the 2007 class. A big running back with major credentials from Frederick, Md., is **Terence Kerns** (6-1, 230), who is a power runner with quickness.

The quarterback of the future in West Virginia's option offense could be Virginia prep product **Bradley Starks** (6-4, 190), who passed for 70 career touchdowns as a high schooler. Another Virginia signee is athlete **Brandon Hogan** (6-0, 175), who passed for 2,539 yards and rushed for 1,735 last season.

The top defensive recruit is junior-college transfer **Ellis Lankster** (5-10, 200), who was an All-America return man at Jones County (Miss.) Junior College.

Other recruits for the secondary include prospects from four different states: Florida's **Eain Smith** (6-0, 190), **Evan Rodriguez** (6-3, 210) of North Bergen, N.J., Michigan's **Derek Knight** (6-0, 195) and **Sidney Glover** (5-11, 215) of Warren, Ohio.

A touted linebacker is **Will Johnson** (6-2, 200), an active defender from Centerville (Ohio) High.

Key newcomers to the offensive line are in-state product **Chad Snodgrass** (6-3, 290), plus **Gino Gradkowski** (6-2, 280) and **Don Barclay** (6-4, 285) from neighboring Pennsylvania. A defensive-end prospect is **Julian Miller** (6-5, 220) of Columbus, Ohio.

Besides Snodgrass, the top in-state recruit was defensive lineman **Junius Lewis** (6-2, 250), who played at Morgantown High near the WVU campus.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	WVU	OPP
SCORING	505	282
Points Per Game	38.8	21.7
FIRST DOWNS	273	247
Rushing	168	79
Passing	91	141
Penalty	14	27
RUSHING YARDAGE	3939	1213
Yards gained rushing	4191	1554
Yards lost rushing	252	341
Rushing Attempts	590	407
Average Per Rush	6.7	3.0
Average Per Game	303.0	93.3
TDs Rushing	48	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2059	3163
Att-Comp-Int	233-149-8	425-244-16
Average Per Pass	8.8	7.4
Average Per Catch	13.8	13.0
Average Per Game	158.4	243.3
TDs Passing	15	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5998	4376
Total Plays	823	832
Average Per Play	7.3	5.3
Average Per Game	461.4	336.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	50-1192	62-1060
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-234	17-160
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-170	8-43
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.8	17.1
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	9.0	9.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.6	5.4
FUMBLES-LOST	24-9	25-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	89-867	78-692
Average Per Game	66.7	53.2
PUNTS-YARDS	35-1449	60-2427
Average Per Punt	41.4	40.5
Net punt average	36.8	33.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:07	29:53
3RD-DOWN CONV.	76/153	73/177
3rd-Down Pct.	50%	41%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/9	11/20
4th-Down Pct.	56%	55%
SACKS BY-YARDS	31-216	15-82
MISC YARDS	0	8
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	65	33
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	17-22	17-20
PAT-ATTEMPTS	62-62 100%	29-29 100%
ATTENDANCE	411408	219696
Games/Avg Per Game	7/58773	5/43939
Neutral Site Games		1/67714

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
West Virginia	111	136	148	92	18	505
Opponent	51	98	52	65	16	282

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Patrick White

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	159.73	179-118-7	65.9	1655	13	137.9

Jarrett Brown

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	137.99	47-28-1	59.6	384	2	64.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Steve Slaton	13	248	1744	7.0	16	134.2
Patrick White	12	165	1219	7.4	18	101.6
Owen Schmitt	13	65	351	5.4	7	27.0

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Darius Reynaud	13	39	520	13.3	2	40.0
Brandon Myles	13	36	522	14.5	8	40.2
Steve Slaton	13	27	360	13.3	2	27.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Quinton Andrews	13	46	34	80
Kevin McLee	13	49	30	79
Eric Wicks	13	45	28	73

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Eric Wicks	13	7.0	42
Reed Williams	13	5.0	24
Keilen Dykes	13	3.0	27

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Quinton Andrews	5	67	13.4	0
Eric Wicks	3	41	13.7	0
Vaughn Rivers	2	0	0	0

TOP 25 SELECTION

#2 LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 12-1 » **Big East: 6-1** *(beat Wake Forest in the Orange Bowl, 24-13)*

Louisville, Ky. **Stadium:** Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (42,000) **Tickets:** 800-633-7105

Led by Heisman candidate Brohm, Cards will continue to deal winning hand under new Coach Steve Kragthorpe

For a team that just lost a head coach who put the program on the map and one of the most talented running backs in school history, the Louisville football program looks remarkably stable heading into 2007.

Former Tulsa Coach Steve Kragthorpe replaces Bobby Petrino (41-9 in four seasons), as Petrino takes his high-octane offense to the Atlanta Falcons. The Cardinals were 12-1 last season, losing only to Rutgers by a field goal on Nov. 9. The team finished at No. 6 in the nation following an Orange Bowl win over Wake Forest, and should again challenge for the Big East title, if not a national championship.

Kragthorpe inherited a Tulsa program that had won just two games in the two years before he was hired in December 2002. He took the Golden Hurricane to three bowl games in four years and should bring stability to a Louisville program that seemed to deal annually with Petrino's flirtations with other jobs. Like all coaches upon taking a new job, Kragthorpe says he is committed to Louisville for the long term, and not just because he has a lucrative five-year deal. It helps that he and Athletic Director Tom Jurich have a history that dates back to 1990, when Jurich was the Northern Arizona athletic director and Kragthorpe was hired as the school's quarterbacks coach.

At Louisville, Kragthorpe takes over a loaded roster led by an All-American some scouts believe will be a more reliable NFL quarterback than Michael Vick, now Petrino's signal-caller with the Falcons. Heisman Trophy front-runner Brian Brohm, back for his senior season, leads an offense that dominated in 2006 even after explosive running back Michael Bush suffered a season-ending broken leg in the first game.

Seven players who made All-Big East first or second team return from last season's conference champions, though Kragthrope must replace three all-league performers on defense: star defensive end Amobi Okoye, cornerback William Gay and safety Brandon Sharp.

The offense remains loaded. Brohm, who might have been the top quarterback selected in the 2007 NFL Draft, draws comparisons with Brett Favre, though he's not nearly as durable. Brohm has thrown for 6,751 yards and 41 touchdowns in three seasons, but must prove that he can stay healthy after enduring knee, thumb and shoulder injuries over the last two years. Brohm, who owns an 18-3 record as a starter, is coming off an MVP performance in the Orange Bowl, throwing for 311 yards.

Backup Hunter Cantwell, who would start at many other schools, is a reliable insurance policy against another Brohm injury. Matt Simms, brother of Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Chris and son of Phil, the former New York Giants star, is not expected to play as a true freshman.

Bush's injury last season forced the Cardinals into a rusher-by-committee approach, which they might follow again this season. Then again, Anthony Allen rushed for 406 yards and a team-high 13 touchdowns in 2006, including one of the team's two fourth-quarter scores in the Orange Bowl. Junior George Stripling (459 yards, 5 TDs) also figures to get significant carries.

The Cardinals have arguably the deepest and most talented receiving corps in the country. Like Brohm, Harry Douglas and Mario Urrutia resisted overtures from the NFL. The 5-11 Douglas, a senior, led the Cardinals with a career-best 70 catches for a school-record 1,265 yards, catching 10 balls for 165 yards in the Orange Bowl. Urrutia, a 6-6 junior, caught 58 passes for 973 yards and six touchdowns last year.

Louisville had not thrown much to its tight ends in recent years until last season, when Gary Barnidge hauled in a career-best 31 catches for 511 yards and four touchdowns. Fellow senior Scott Kuhn is an effective blocker.

The Cardinals' offensive line was dominant last season, with four players earning first- or second-team all-conference honors. First-team left tackle George Bussey returns, as does center Eric Wood, a second-team pick. At right tackle, senior Breno Giacomini is the front-runner to replace all-conference Renardo Foster, though Giacomini will be pushed by redshirt freshman Jeff Adams. Senior Marcel Benson, who split time last season at tackle, will man Kurt Quarterman's

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	3

» **Head Coach: Steve Kragthorpe,** 1st year
Career Record: 29-22

Official athletic Web site: www.uoflsports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**Murray State**	
S. 6	**Middle Tennessee**	44-17
S. 15	@KENTUCKY	59-28
S. 22	**Syracuse**	28-13
S. 29	@N.C. STATE	
O. 5	**Utah**	
O. 13	@CINCINNATI	23-17
O. 19	@CONNECTICUT	48-17
O. 27	**Pittsburgh**	48-24
N. 8	» **@WEST VIRGINIA**	44-34
N. 17	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-8
N. 29	**Rutgers**	25-28

» GAME TO WATCH «

Louisville could easily be 9-0 heading into this showdown that could determine the conference title.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	12
2005	9
2004	11
2003	9
2002	7

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **57/15**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Brian Brohm (6-4, 226, Sr.)
FB	32	Brock Bolen (6-0, 237, Jr.)
RB	24	George Stripling (6-0, 192, Jr.)
LT	68	George Bussey (6-4, 298, Jr.)
LG	63	Daniel Barlowe (6-5, 290, Sr.)
C	77	Eric Wood (6-4, 301, Jr.)
RG	69	Marcel Benson (6-6, 310, Sr.)
RT	78	Breno Giacomini (6-7, 300, Sr.)
TE	82	Gary Barnidge (6-6, 234, Sr.)
WR	7	Mario Urrutia (6-6, 228, Jr.)
WR	85	Harry Douglas (5-11, 170, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	8	Peanut Whitehead (6-6, 250, So.)
NT	94	Adrian Grady (6-2, 292, Jr.)
DT	57	Earl Heyman (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DE	88	Brandon Cox (6-4, 260, Sr.)
SLB	11	Malik Jackson (6-2, 231, Sr.)
MLB	22	Lamar Myles (6-0, 220, Jr.)
WLB	6	Preston Smith (6-1, 220, Sr.)
LCB	14	Rod Council (5-11, 190, Jr.)
RCB	34	Bobby Buchanan (5-11, 190, Jr.)
FS	30	Latarrius Thomas (6-2, 213, So.)
SS	13	Jon Russell (6-2, 203, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	18	Art Carmody (5-9, 165, Sr.)
P	29	Corey Goettsche (6-1, 196, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

THE NEXT BIG THING

WOODNY TURENNE, CB

Speedy lockdown corner was considered the Cards' best national prospect in a loaded class of junior-college transfers.

vacated right-guard position. Daniel Barlowe has solidified the left-guard spot after starting 11 games there in 2006.

Although Okoye is still younger than much of the Louisville roster, he used up his eligibility and the Cardinals will have to find a replacement for both him and defensive end Zach Anderson. Juniors Adrian Grady and Earl Heyman are the projected starters at nose tackle and defensive tackle, respectively.

Peanut Whitehead, the sophomore with an unforgettable name, should take over as the starting left end after recording four sacks as a freshman. Senior Brandon Cox has battled some personal issues, but should be back at right end. Then there's the infamous Willie Williams, whose troubled past dates back to his time as a high-profile recruit at Miami. The linebacker is one of several junior-college players who should contribute immediately on defense.

Senior Malik Jackson is the lone returnee among the linebackers, having turned down an early start to his NFL career. A second-team all-conference selection in 2006, Jackson led the team with 16 tackles for loss and nine sacks from the strongside position. Hard-hitting junior Lamar Myles is the leader to replace Nate Harris at middle linebacker. Preston Smith, a senior who started at times last season, projects as the starting weakside 'backer. Sophomores Stephen Garr and Darius Mann and redshirt freshman Eugene Sowell also will compete for playing time.

The Cardinals must replace three starters in the secondary: Gay, Sharp and Gavin Smart. Safety, a weak link for the Cardinals at times last season, is a position where there's now quality depth. Senior Jon Russell has quietly had a solid career at Louisville, recording three interceptions in 2006. Latarrius Thomas, who started as a true freshman last year, joins Russell. Thomas will compete with junior Richard Raglin for the starting job at free safety.

Junior Rod Council lost his cornerback job to Smart last season after suffering an ankle injury. Council started the Orange Bowl and, with Smart gone, projects as the starter, along with junior Bobby Buchanan. They'll be pushed by Woodny Turenne and Chaz Thompson, two highly regarded junior-college transfers expecting to play right away.

Art Carmody is the best placekicker in the country, having won the Lou Groza Award last season as a junior. Carmody owns the Louisville record book, having connected on 47 of 56 field goals in his career. Sophomore Corey Goettsche and senior Todd Flannery will compete at punter.

JaJuan Spillman, who should be a bigger part of the wideout rotation this season, emerged as one of the nation's best kickoff-return men in 2006, averaging 26.5 yards and returning a kick 100 yards against Rutgers.

Louisville plays just three conference games at home, but a light non-conference schedule should prove to be a good warm-up for a stretch run against West Virginia and USF on the road and a season finale at home against Rutgers. With six nationally televised games on Thursday and Friday nights, the Cardinals could become a popular team. If Brohm can stay healthy for a full season, a national title is within reach.

RECRUITING REPORT

First-year Coach Steve Kragthorpe welcomes a recruiting class that includes the nation's top-rated junior-college prospect in defensive back **Woodny Turenne** (6-1, 190), who played at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Calif. He is expected to start immediately for the Cardinals.

While the defense will be bolstered by the presence of Turenne, the offense also has been improved through the signing of other highly rated recruits.

At quarterback, the Cardinals landed New Jersey star **Matt Simms** (6-3, 195), the son of ex-NFL signal-caller Phil and brother of Tampa Bay Buccaneers QB Chris. The pro-style recruit is expected to fill the void under center when starter Brian Brohm departs for the next level.

Also in the incoming class are three promising running backs: Louisville prep star **Victor Anderson** (5-9, 175), Bolingbrook, Ill., product **Dale Martin** (6-0, 190) and **Bilal Powell** (6-0, 200) from Lakeland, Fla.

Another local standout who signed with the Cards is **Doug Beaumont** (5-9, 180), who is expected to contend for a spot at wide receiver.

On defense, former prep All-America linebacker **Willie Williams** (6-3, 225), who originally signed with the University of Miami before getting into trouble there, arrives from the juco ranks and West Los Angeles Community College.

Another heralded defensive recruit is safety **C.J. Peake** (6-2, 210) of Trotwood, Ohio.

The offensive-line recruits are led by New Jersey product **Greg Tomczyk** (6-6, 290) and in-state signee **Zach Kiernan** (6-6, 240) of Cold Springs, Ky.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	Louisville	OPP
SCORING	491	212
Points Per Game	37.8	16.3
FIRST DOWNS	296	204
Rushing	125	71
Passing	150	121
Penalty	21	12
RUSHING YARDAGE	2409	1362
Yards gained rushing	2629	1788
Yards lost rushing	220	426
Rushing Attempts	483	403
Average Per Rush	5.0	3.4
Average Per Game	185.3	104.8
TDs Rushing	35	12
PASSING YARDAGE	3770	2804
Att-Comp-Int	384-245-7	414-208-12
Average Per Pass	9.8	6.8
Average Per Catch	15.4	13.5
Average Per Game	290.0	215.7
TDs Passing	22	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	6179	4166
Total Plays	867	817
Average Per Play	7.1	5.1
Average Per Game	475.3	320.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	32-651	70-1424
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	39-265	19-135
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	12-186	7-146
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.3	20.3
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	6.8	7.1
INT RETURN AVERAGE	15.5	20.9
FUMBLES-LOST	22-16	26-13
PENALTIES-YARDS	65-582	74-635
Average Per Game	44.8	48.8
PUNTS-YARDS	46-1775	74-2970
Average Per Punt	38.6	40.1
Net punt average	33.5	35.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:52	30:10
3RD-DOWN CONV.	74/160	55/180
3rd-Down Pct.	46%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/12	7/22
4th-Down Pct.	67%	32%
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-280	20-121
MISC YARDS	0	-17
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	61	26
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	21-25	10-20
PAT-ATTEMPTS	60-60 100%	216367
ATTENDANCE	248891	6/36061
Games/Avg Per Game	6/41482	1/74470
Neutral Site Games		

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Louisville	83	165	112	131	491
Opponent	51	54	29	78	212

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Brian Brohm						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	159.08	313-199-5	63.6	3049	16	277.2

Hunter Cantwell						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	166.14	70-45-2	64.3	700	5	100.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kolby Smith	13	154	862	5.6	7	66.3
George Stripling	13	81	459	5.7	5	35.3
Anthony Allen	13	96	406	4.2	13	31.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Harry Douglas	13	70	1265	18.1	6	97.3
Mario Urrutia	13	58	973	16.8	6	74.8
Gary Barnidge	13	31	511	16.5	4	39.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Nate Harris	13	38	27	65
William Gay	13	48	12	60
Malik Jackson	13	49	8	57

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Malik Jackson	13	9.0	59
Amobi Okoye	13	8.0	34
Peanut Whitehead	13	4.0	39

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
William Gay	6	70	11.7	0
Gavin Smart	3	20	6.7	0
Jon Russell	3	96	32.0	0

#3 RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

TOP 25 SELECTION

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 11-2 » **Big East:** 5-2 *(beat Kansas State in the Texas Bowl, 37-10)*

Stadium: Rutgers Stadium (42,000) **Tickets:** 866-445-GORU **New Brunswick, N.J.**

Scarlet fever will keep heating up NCAA as long as Rice continues to cook

It wasn't that long ago when a preview of a Rutgers football season included talk of one to two wins and whether the Scarlet Knights could field a team of legitimate I-A players.

After an 11-2 season that saw Rutgers in position to contend for a national title in November, nobody takes this program lightly anymore. Indeed, the word "powerhouse" is even whispered after a year in which the Knights finished ranked 12th in the nation and won the Texas Bowl, their first postseason win in 137 seasons of football.

Most importantly, they kept their leader, as consensus national Coach-of-the-Year Greg Schiano resisted overtures from the University of Miami and signed a four-year contract extension that runs through the 2016 season.

Rutgers tied a school mark with 11 wins and won a record five Big East games in 2006, joining Wake Forest as one of the most unlikely success stories in college football last season. The Knights finished fourth nationally in total defense, fifth in sacks and tackles for loss and eighth in scoring defense. The offensive line allowed the fewest sacks (8) in the nation.

After a punishing schedule last season, Rutgers plays its first five games at home and just one conference road game (Louisville) against a team that did not finish 1-6 in the Big East in 2006.

This time, however, Rutgers won't sneak up on anyone and must compete without a number of departed seniors who sparked the program's resurgence under Schiano, including fullback Brian Leonard, tight end Clark Harris and defensive tackle Ramel Meekins.

Speedy tailback Ray Rice gives Rutgers fans hope that the magical ride will continue. One of seven returning starters on offense, he is coming off a Big East single-season record of 1,794 yards rushing. Both of Rice's offensive tackles—first-team all-conference Jeremy Zuttah and second-teamer Pedro Sosa—return, along with starting left guard Mike Fladell.

Junior quarterback Mike Teel won't be mentioned in the same breath as Louisville's Brian Brohm or West Virginia's Patrick White, but perhaps he should be. The whipping boy for Rutgers detractors all last year has lost just three of his 15 starts.

Rutgers returns both of its starting receivers from the Texas Bowl in sophomores Kenny Britt and Tim Brown. Britt finished the year with 29 catches for 440 yards and two TDs, while Brown made a statement in the final two games with seven receptions and three TDs against West Virginia and Kansas State.

Tight end is wide-open after the loss of Harris, a three-time All-Big East performer. Junior Kevin Brock is the lone tight end on the roster with game experience, but has zero career catches.

Rutgers returns six starters on defense, including first-team All-Big East defensive tackle Eric Foster. Junior defensive end Jamaal Westerman, a second-team all-conference selection, is the returning team leader in sacks (8).

At linebacker, Rutgers must replace second-team All-Big East pick Devraun Thompson at middle linebacker and Quintero Frierson on the outside. Former walk-on Brandon Renkart returns to lead the inexperienced group.

Considered the best safety tandem in the league, second-team All-Big East selections Courtney Greene and Ron Girault return. Greene, a junior, was second on the team with 82 tackles and recorded a team-high four picks.

Senior kicker Jeremy Ito already is the school's all-time scoring leader with 280 points and would probably get more attention if not for Louisville's Art Carmody.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» TIM BROWN, WR

Just 5-8 and 150 pounds, but he can fly. Brown caught three touchdowns in the last two games of 2006. Plus, he's got a good name for a receiver.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Anthony Davis, OL, 6-6, 350**
   Prep All-American was a major in-state signing.
2. **Manny Abreu, LB, 6-3, 220**
   Another in-state catch for the Scarlet Knights.
3. **Jonathan Freeny, DE, 6-2, 220**
   A pass rusher from south Florida.
4. **Alex Silvestro, DE, 6-4, 220**
   New Jersey prepster with a big reputation.
5. **Desmond Wynn, DL, 6-6, 250**
   Delaware product could offer immediate help.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Greg Schiano**
7th year (30-41) **Career Record:** 30-41

Official athletic Web site: www.scarletknights.com

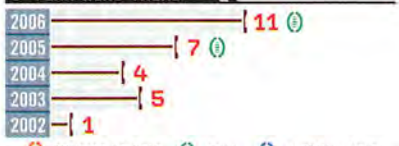
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**Buffalo**	
S. 7	**Navy**	34-0
S. 15	**Norfolk State**	
S. 29	**Maryland**	
O. 6	**Cincinnati**	11-30
O. 13	@SYRACUSE	38-7
O. 18	**South Florida**	22-20
O. 27	**West Virginia**	39-41 (OT)
N. 3	@CONNECTICUT	24-13
N. 9	@ARMY	
N. 17	**Pittsburgh**	20-10
N. 29	» @LOUISVILLE	28-25

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Knights' only tough conference road game could determine the Big East title in this season-ending Thursday night showdown.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **57/36**

» OFFENSE

QB	14	Mike Teel (6-4, 215, Jr.)
FB	19	Jack Corcoran (6-1, 225, So.)
RB	27	Ray Rice (5-9, 200, Jr.)
LT	77	Pedro Sosa (6-5, 290, Sr.)
LG	72	Mike Fladell (6-8, 325, Sr.)
C	61	Ryan Blaszczyk (6-4, 290, So.)
RG	78	Kevin Haslam (6-7, 280, So.)
RT	71	Jeremy Zuttah (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TE	89	Kevin Brock (6-5, 245, Jr.)
WR	88	Kenny Britt (6-4, 205, So.)
WR	2	Tim Brown (5-8, 150, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	31	George Johnson (6-4, 250, So.)
DT	56	Eric Foster (6-2, 265, Sr.)
DT	97	Pete Tverdov (6-4, 260, Jr.)
DE	90	Jamaal Westerman (6-3, 250, Jr.)
OLB	47	Brandon Renkart (6-3, 230, Sr.)
MLB	33	Chris Quaye (6-0, 225, So.)
OLB	34	Kevin Malast (6-2, 225, Jr.)
CB	25	Jason McCourty (5-11, 185, Jr.)
CB	21	Devin McCourty (5-11, 185, So.)
FS	36	Courtney Greene (6-1, 205, Jr.)
SS	43	Ron Girault (5-11, 200, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	1	Jeremy Ito (5-11, 190, Sr.)
P	1	Jeremy Ito (5-11, 190, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS

#4

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-4 » **Big East:** 4-3 *(beat East Carolina in the Papajohns.com Bowl, 24-7)*

Tampa **Stadium:** Raymond James Stadium (65,000) **Tickets:** 813-974-3002

» **Head Coach: Jim Leavitt**
11th year (70-43) **Career Record:** 70-43

Official athletic Web site: www.gousfbulls.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	Elon	
S. 8	» @Auburn	
S. 22	North Carolina	37-20
S. 28	West Virginia	24-19
O. 6	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
O. 13	UCF	24-17
O. 18	@RUTGERS	20-22
O. 27	@CONNECTICUT	38-16
N. 3	Cincinnati	6-23
N. 10	@SYRACUSE	27-10
N. 17	Louisville	8-31
N. 24	@PITTSBURGH	22-12

››› GAME TO WATCH ‹‹‹

Early-season showdown on national TV should show where USF ranks among national powers.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9
2005	6
2004	4
2003	7
2002	9

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **20**
Lettermen returning/lost: **53/15**

» OFFENSE		
QB	8	Matt Grothe (6-0, 200, So.)
RB	30	Benjamin Williams (5-7, 190, Jr.)
LT	78	Marc Dile (6-4, 310, Jr.)
LG	71	Matt Huners (6-3, 290, Jr.)
C	69	Nick Capogna (6-3, 275, Jr.)
RG	65	Ryan Schmidt (6-4, 305, So.)
RT	75	Walter Walker (6-5, 315, Sr.)
TE	9	Cedric Hill (6-3, 240, Jr.)
WR	18	Amarri Jackson (6-5, 195, Sr.)
WR	89	Taurus Johnson (6-1, 190, Jr.)
WR	11	Marcus Edwards (5-11, 175, Jr.)
» DEFENSE		
LE	90	Jarriett Buie (6-4, 255, Sr.)
NT	76	Richard Clebert (6-1, 310, Sr.)
DT	98	Aaron Harris (6-4, 255, So.)
RE	95	George Selvie (6-4, 245, So.)
SLB	49	Chris Robinson (6-3, 240, So.)
MLB	59	Ben Moffitt (6-2, 240, Sr.)
WLB	53	Brouce Mompremier (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LCB	21	Trae Williams (5-10, 185, Sr.)
RCB	4	Mike Jenkins (6-0. 200, Sr.)
FS	17	Danny Verpaele (5-11, 200, So.)
SS	32	Carlton Williams (6-4, 205, Jr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	25	Delbert Alvarado (6-0, 175, So.)
P	27	Justin Teachey (5-11, 170, Jr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

Look for USF program to continue to build momentum under Leavitt in 2007

In just 10 seasons, Coach Jim Leavitt has taken the USF Bulls from a start-up operation to arguably a Top 25 team. The only team in the Sunshine State that fared better last season won the national championship.

That might be a tall order for the Bulls in 2007, though after a 9-4 record (4-3 in the Big East) last season and a first-ever bowl victory, over East Carolina in the PapaJohns.com Bowl, expectations are high at the commuter school in north Tampa.

Leavitt and his staff, who for years were forced to operate out of a flotilla of doublewide trailers, now have a sparkling new football facility to attract recruits. And in perhaps the surest sign that the program is becoming big-time, Leavitt lost assistants Rod Smith and Greg Frey to conference rival West Virginia.

Perhaps it's payback time. After knocking off West Virginia in Morgantown last season and a narrow loss to Rutgers, 22-20, the Bulls won't be taken lightly by opponents this season. USF plays both opponents on nationally televised weeknight games on ESPN, part of a schedule that includes early-season matchups at Auburn and at home against North Carolina.

USF might need to show the resilience it exhibited last season, when a disappointing loss to Cincinnati in late October left the Bulls 1-2 in conference play. But they rebounded to go 3-1 in November and earn a second consecutive bowl bid.

The reasons for USF's rise are many—Leavitt's determination and a deep Florida recruiting base to name two—but none more important than Matt Grothe, who as a redshirt freshman in 2006 threw for 2,576 yards and 15 touchdowns, rushed for 622 yards and nine more scores in winning Big East Rookie-of-the-Year honors. Grothe led the team in rushing, but Leavitt hopes to provide him with more protection this year, both from the offensive line and by having the tailbacks shoulder more of the load.

Freshman running back Mike Ford and redshirt freshman Aston Samuels will challenge former walk-on Benjamin Williams, USF's MVP in the PapaJohns.com Bowl. Ford was one of the top running backs coming out of the state of Florida in 2005, but only enrolled in USF this spring after originally signing with Alabama and winding up in junior college the past year and a half. Whoever ends up the primary ball-carrier will benefit from last year's offensive line returning intact.

The Bulls must replace two wide receivers—S.J. Green and Ean Randolph—who started last season, but that shouldn't be a problem. Junior Taurus Johnson (37 catches, 494 yards) returns and should replace Randolph both at receiver and as the primary return man.

Though Grothe generated most of the publicity last season, it was arguably the defense that took USF up a notch, ranking 25th nationally in total defense. Louisville was the only opponent to score more than 30 points on the Bulls, who held three teams to less than 10.

QB › Matt Grothe

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **MIKE FORD, RB**
One of the nation's top backs coming out of high school in 2005, Ford could jump from junior-college star to starter.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Mike Ford, RB, 6-2, 210**
Prep-school star is considered the Bulls' most highly regarded recruit ever.
2. **Kyle Dampier, DL, 6-4, 265**
An active, nonstop defender who will play immediately.
3. **Claude Davis, DE, 6-4, 240**
One of several promising defenders.
4. **Alton Voss, QB, 6-2, 210**
In-state player loaded with talent.
5. **Terrell McClain, DL, 6-3, 295**
A promising lineman of the future.

JOE ROBBINS

Cincinnati » 2006 Record: 8-5 » Big East: 4-3

(beat Western Michigan in the International Bowl, 27-24)

LOWER-TIER BOWL

#5 » CINCINNATI BEARCATS

PRESEASON RANK

Coach Brian Kelly doesn't have to deal with many of the issues of a typical first-year coach. He inherited an upstart team that went 8-5 last year under Mark Dantonio (now at Michigan State) and even got the getting-acquainted transition period out of the way by coaching his new team to a win over Western Michigan in the first International Bowl.

Kelly, who took Central Michigan to a MAC championship in his third season there, will have to face the same challenge Dantonio did in putting Bearcats football on the radar screen in Cincinnati.

Last season helped. Cincinnati won four of its last five games to finish the regular season 7-5 (4-3 Big East), including an upset of No. 7 Rutgers. The Bearcats beat South Florida on national television in October and thrived despite a rigorous schedule.

Kelly has installed a new no-huddle spread offense, which will go over well with a deep, talented receiving corps. Junior Dominick Goodman, the team leader with 40 receptions in 2006, hauled in seven catches for 109 yards and two touchdowns in the spread offense during the International Bowl. Junior Derrick Stewart racked up a team-high 675 receiving yards and senior Earnest Jackson has 68 career catches.

Dustin Grutza is back for his third season at quarterback. However, he'll be pushed by transfer Ben Mauk, who went down with a shoulder injury in last year's opening game playing for Wake Forest. Grandfathered in under a now-invalid rule that allows graduate-student transfers to play right away, Mauk could be one of the team's more intriguing stories.

The Bearcats return three juniors who earned All-Big East honors in 2006: cornerback Mike Mickens, defensive tackle Terrill Byrd and offensive guard Trevor Canfield.

Head Coach: Brian Kelly
1st year
Career Record: 19-16 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Nippert Stadium
Tickets: 877-CATS-TIX
Capacity: 35,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.gobearcats.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8	Conference Title, Bowl, National Title
2005	4	
2004	7	Bowl
2003	5	
2002	7	Bowl

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**SE Missouri State**	
S. 6	**Oregon State**	
S. 15	@MIAMI (OH)	24-10
S. 22	**Marshall**	
S. 29	@S.D. STATE	
O. 6	@RUTGERS	30-11
O. 13	**Louisville**	17-23
O. 20	@PITTSBURGH	15-33
N. 3	@SOUTH FLA.	23-6
N. 10	**Connecticut**	26-23
N. 17	**West Virginia**	24-42
N. 24	@SYRACUSE	17-3

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Big East opener for the Bearcats should be a good test against a team they upended last season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **53/13**

» OFFENSE

QB	4	Dustin Grutza (6-2, 210, r-Jr.)
TB	48	Greg Moore (6-2, 225, r-Sr.)
LT	71	Jeff Linkenbach (6-6, 290, r-So.)
LG	77	Jeremy Bolton (6-5, 310, Sr.)
C	64	Chris Flores (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RG	76	Trevor Canfield (6-5, 300, r-Jr.)
RT	72	Digger Bujnoch (6-5, 290, r-Sr.)
TE	89	Connor Barwin (6-4, 240, Jr.)
WR	16	Dominick Goodman (6-1, 200, r-Jr.)
WR	14	Earnest Jackson (6-3, 215, Sr.)
WR	10	Derrick Stewart (5-11, 170, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	56	Trevor Anderson (6-2, 260, r-Jr.)
DT	95	Terrill Byrd (6-1, 285, r-Jr.)
DT	67	Adam Hoppel (6-2, 270, r-Jr.)
DE	12	Anthony Hoke (6-1, 245, r-Sr.)
OLB	55	Leo Morgan (6-1, 230, r-Sr.)
MLB	50	Andre Revels (6-0, 235, So.)
OLB	42	Corey Smith (6-1, 220, r-Jr.)
CB	21	Mike Mickens (6-0, 165, r-Jr.)
CB	6	DeAngelo Smith (6-0, 180, Jr.)
FS	13	Haruki Nakamura (5-10, 185, r-Sr.)
SS	18	Cedric Tolbert (6-0, 195, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	9	Brandon Yingling (6-1, 175, Jr.)
P	47	Kevin Huber (6-1, 205, Jr.)

Pittsburgh » 2006 Record: 6-6 » Big East: 2-5

#6 » PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

PRESEASON RANK

Few teams were as disappointing last season as Pittsburgh, which squandered a 6-1 start and likely bowl bid with an epic five-game collapse in Dave Wannstedt's second season as head coach at his alma mater.

Wannstedt signed his second consecutive top-25 recruiting class and will have to employ a number of newcomers immediately after losing longtime pillars such as quarterback Tyler Palko, linebackers H.B. Blades and Clint Session and cornerback Darrelle Revis. With Tommie Campbell suspended and unlikely to return, the Panthers will need to replace all three starters at linebacker.

The defensive losses sting since the Panthers gave up 139 points in their last three games and face a brutal schedule that includes non-conference games at Michigan State and Virginia and conference road battles against Louisville, Rutgers and West Virginia.

Wannstedt, 11-12 in his two seasons at Pitt, has a few veteran building blocks. Wide receiver Derek Kinder caught 57 passes for 847 yards and six touchdowns as a junior and made the All-Big East first team. Running mate Oderick Turner hauled in 44 catches for 660 yards and tied West Virginia's Brandon Myles for the conference lead with eight TDs. Defensive end Joe Clermond is the leader of a defense that includes returning cornerback Kennard Cox (51 tackles). Kicker Conor Lee, who made 85.7 percent of his field goals last year, went overlooked in a conference deep in kicking talent.

After that, the rebuilding begins. There will be a three-way battle to become Palko's successor among junior Bill Stull, redshirt freshman Kevan Smith and true freshman Pat Bostick, Pennsylvania's Gatorade Player of the Year in 2006. Another true freshman, LeSean McCoy, could emerge as the starting tailback.

Head Coach: Dave Wannstedt
3rd year (11-12)
Career Record: 11-12
Stadium: Heinz Field
Tickets: 412-648-PITT
Capacity: 65,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.pittsburghpanthers.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6	
2005	5	
2004	8	Conference Title, Bowl, National Title
2003	8	Bowl
2002	9	Conference Title, Bowl, National Title

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Eastern Michigan**	
S. 8	**Grambling State**	
S. 15	@MICHIGAN ST.	23-38
S. 22	**Connecticut**	45-46 (2OT)
S. 29	@VIRGINIA	38-13
O. 10	**Navy**	
O. 20	**Cincinnati**	33-15
O. 27	@LOUISVILLE	24-48
N. 3	**Syracuse**	21-11
N. 17	@RUTGERS	10-20
N. 24	**South Florida**	12-22
D. 1	@WEST VIRGINIA	27-45

» GAME TO WATCH «

Pitt's first Big East game against a team it lost to in double overtime last season will be a good barometer of where the young Panthers stand.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **48/21**

» OFFENSE

QB	11	Bill Stull (6-3, 185, Jr.)
FB	30	Conredge Collins (6-0, 235, Jr.)
TB	34	L. Stephens-Howling (5-7, 175, Jr.)
LT	76	Jeff Otah (6-6, 340, Sr.)
LG	55	C.J. Davis (6-2, 300, Jr.)
C	64	Chris Vangas (6-2, 295, r-Sr.)
RG	56	Joe Thomas (6-5, 285, So.)
RT	75	Mike McGlynn (6-5, 315, r-Sr.)
TE	80	Nate Byham (6-3, 225, So.)
SE	88	Oderick Turner (6-3, 200, r-So.)
FL	81	Derek Kinder (6-1, 205, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	58	Joe Clermond (6-3, 260, r-Sr.)
NT	50	Rashaad Duncan (6-2, 290, Jr.)
DT	93	Gus Mustakas (6-3, 265, Jr.)
DE	41	Chris McKillop (6-3, 250, r-Sr.)
SLB	8	Adam Gunn (6-2, 225, r-Jr.)
MLB	40	Scott McKillop (6-2, 245, r-Jr.)
WLB	15	Shane Murray (6-1, 210, r-So.)
LCB	5	Kennard Cox (6-1, 195, r-Sr.)
RCB	17	Aaron Berry (5-11, 175, So.)
FS	28	Eric Thatcher (5-9, 190, r-Jr.)
SS	10	Mike Phillips (5-11, 200, r-Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

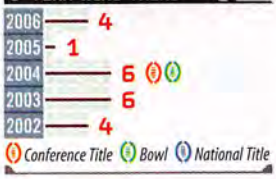
PK	37	Conor Lee (5-11, 195, r-Jr.)
P	18	Dave Brytus (6-4, 225, r-Jr.)

SYRACUSE ORANGE

« # 7
PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Greg Robinson
3rd year (5-18)
Career Record: 5-18
Stadium: Carrier Dome
Tickets: 888-366-3849
Capacity: 49,262
Official athletic Web site:
www.suathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND



2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 31	**Washington**	
S. 8	@IOWA	13-20 (OT)
S. 15	**Illinois**	31-21
S. 22	@LOUISVILLE	13-28
S. 29	@MIAMI (OH)	34-14
O. 6	**West Virginia**	17-41
O. 13	**Rutgers**	7-38
O. 20	**Buffalo**	
N. 3	@PITTSBURGH	11-21
N. 10	**South Florida**	10-27
N.17	**@CONNECTICUT**	20-14
N. 24	**Cincinnati**	3-17

» GAME TO WATCH «

Like last season, this might be the Orange's best hope of a Big East win.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **10**
Lettermen returning/lost: **42/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	9	Andrew Robinson (6-3, 222, So.)
TB	3	Delone Carter (5-10, 214, So.)
FB	38	Breyone Evans (6-0, 242, Sr.)
LT	64	Corey Chavers (6-5, 295, Jr.)
LG	59	Carroll Madison (6-2, 310, Sr.)
C	67	Marvin McCall (6-2, 292, Sr.)
RG	75	Ryan Durand (6-5, 310, Jr.)
RT	69	Larry Norton (6-3, 320, Sr.)
TE	80	Jawad Nesheiwat (6-4, 251, Sr.)
WR	2	Taj Smith (6-1, 188, Sr.)
WR	1	Mike Williams (6-2, 204, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	91	Brandon Gilbeaux (6-3, 271, So.)
NT	97	Arthur Jones (6-4, 289, So.)
DT	51	Tony Jenkins (6-3, 286, Sr.)
DE	52	Jameel McClain (6-1, 256, Sr.)
SLB	33	Ben Maljovec (6-3, 223, Jr.)
MLB	45	Jake Flaherty (6-1, 228, Jr.)
WLB	30	Vincenzo Giruzzi (6-3, 232, Jr.)
LCB	29	Jason Tanner (5-11, 200, Sr.)
RCB	27	Nick Chestnut (5-11, 184, Jr.)
FS	5	Joe Fields (6-1, 210, Sr.)
SS	27	Dowayne Davis (6-0, 200, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	42	Patrick Shadle (5-8, 201, Jr.)
P	5	Kyle Muir (6-3, 196, So.)

Coach Greg Robinson spent the first two years of his Syracuse tenure trying to implement a West Coast offense with mismatched personnel. This year, with promising quarterback Andrew Robinson behind center, he hopes to properly unveil his weapons.

Syracuse has nowhere to go but up. The team improved from 1-10 in 2005 to 4-8 last season, albeit with just one conference win that came late in the year against Connecticut. With perennial underachiever Perry Patterson at quarterback, Syracuse ranked 103rd out of 119 Division I-A teams in passing offense last year and 86th in passing efficiency. The Orange are one of just six teams to rank 100th or worst in scoring in each of the past two seasons.

If Robinson develops early, the offense could be dangerous. Sophomore Delone Carter and junior Curtis Brinkley are one of the Big East's more talented duos at running back. Carter rushed for 713 yards and four touchdowns as a true freshman last season, while Brinkley accounted for 1,110 combined rushing, receiving and returning yards.

Syracuse has a deep receiving corps that includes senior Rice Moss, along with sophomores Mike Williams and Lavar Lobdell. Senior Taj Smith returns after suffering a season-ending broken collarbone in Game Four of last season. Syracuse also returns three starters on the offensive line: guards Carroll Madison and Ryan Durand and center Marvin McCall.

Jameel McClain thrived at defensive end last season after moving from linebacker during spring practice in 2006. He recorded a conference-best 9.5 sacks, was named All-Big East second team and will be the leader of this year's unit. Only three other defensive starters return: tackle Tony Jenkins and safeties Dowayne Davis and Joe Fields, all seniors.

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

« # 8
PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Randy Edsall
9th year (41-51)
Career Record: 41-51
Stadium: Rentschler Field
Tickets: 877-288-2666
Capacity: 40,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.uconnhuskies.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@DUKE	
S. 8	**Maine**	
S. 15	**Temple**	
S.22	**@PITTSBURGH**	46-45 (OT)
S. 29	**Akron**	
O. 13	@VIRGINIA	
O. 19	**Louisville**	17-48
O. 27	**South Florida**	16-38
N. 3	**Rutgers**	13-24
N. 10	@CINCINNATI	23-26
N. 17	**Syracuse**	14-20
N. 24	@WEST VIRGINIA	11-37

» GAME TO WATCH «

First Big East game should provide a good indication of whether the Huskies have improved from 2006.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **34/34**

» OFFENSE

QB	4	Tyler Lorenzen (6-5, 223, Jr.)
TB	34	Donald Brown (5-11, 214, r-So.)
FB	30	Luke Cox (6-0, 245, r-Fr.)
LT	64	William Beatty (6-6, 280, r-Jr.)
LG	62	Lawrence Green (6-3, 332, r-So.)
C	68	Keith Gray (6-2, 287, r-Jr.)
RG	55	Donald Thomas (6-4, 290, r-Sr.)
RT	79	Mike Hicks (6-6, 335, r-So.)
TE	90	Steve Brouse (6-4, 250, r-Jr.)
WR	80	Terence Jeffers (6-2, 210, So.)
WR	24	Larry Taylor (5-6, 173, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	9	Lindsey Witten (6-4, 218, So.)
DT	65	Rob Lunn (6-3, 280, r-Jr.)
DT	6	Dan Davis (6-1, 287, Sr.)
DE	50	Cody Brown (6-4, 240, Jr.)
SLB	32	Scott Lutrus (6-2, 227, r-Fr.)
MLB	48	Danny Lansanah (6-0, 248 r-Sr.)
WLB	43	Ryan Henegan (6-1, 227 r-Sr.)
CB	28	Darius Butler (5-11, 186 r-Jr.)
CB	29	Tyvon Branch (6-0, 199, Sr.)
FS	33	Robert Vaughn (6-0, 192, So.)
SS	15	Donnell Ford (6-1, 192, r-Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	97	Tony Ciaravino (6-2, 228, r-Jr.)
P	13	Desi Cullen (6-1, 201, So.

It wasn't that long ago that Connecticut was one of the more remarkable stories in college football, winning 23 games in its first three seasons (2002-04) of full Division I-A competition.

That seems like the distant past now. The Huskies have won just three Big East games over the last two seasons. After starting the 2006 campaign 3-3, the team lost five of its last six games to finish with a 4-8 mark, 1-6 in conference. It was the team's worst showing since 2001 and it might be hard-pressed to improve in 2007, Coach Randy Edsall's ninth season.

In 2006, Connecticut's rushing defense ranked 105th in the country, while the passing game was No. 110. The kicking game was a constant struggle and multiple players were dismissed from the program. Even Terry Caulley, the star running back, endured an injury-plagued season.

If nothing else, Caulley's absence opened the door for Donald Brown, who rushed for 896 yards on 161 carries and became the only freshman to earn All-Big East honors last year. Brown rushed for 205 yards against Pitt and 199 against Rutgers, becoming the first runner in two years to run for 100 or more against the Scarlet Knights.

At the start of spring practice, 13 of the 22 starting positions were unsettled, including quarterback. Junior-college transfer Tyler Lorenzen, a wide receiver at Iowa State for two seasons before transferring to Palomar College in San Marcos, Calif., is considered the favorite after passing for 2,960 yards and 26 touchdowns last year. D.J. Hernandez, last year's primary starting quarterback, has moved to wide receiver. Edsall does have building blocks for 2007, including linebackers Danny Lansanah and Ryan Henegan, cornerbacks Tyvon Branch and Darius Butler and wideout Brad Kanuch.

BIG TEN

www.bigten.com

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1. WISCONSIN — P. 54 — STOCK: STEADY
2. MICHIGAN — P. 56 — STOCK: STEADY
3. PENN STATE — P. 58 — STOCK: UP
4. OHIO STATE — P. 60 — STOCK: DOWN
5. PURDUE — P. 62 — STOCK: UP
6. IOWA — P. 63 — STOCK: UP
7. MICHIGAN STATE — P. 64 — STOCK: UP
8. NORTHWESTERN — P. 65 — STOCK: STEADY
9. INDIANA — P. 66 — STOCK: STEADY
10. MINNESOTA — P. 67 — STOCK: DOWN
11. ILLINOIS — P. 67 — STOCK: STEADY

Badgers and Wolverines will battle it out in two-way race

By **JACK EBLING**
Street & Smith's correspondent

It had the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the country for six weeks last October and November. And it became the first BCS conference to have three teams with 11 or more regular-season wins.

So what if the Big Ten won't be as tough at the top in 2007 as it was last year? The conference might be more competitive from top to bottom and better overall by Christmas Day.

Yes, the Big Ten had seven bowl teams last December and January. But a 2-5 postseason mark, with then-No. 1 Ohio State and No. 3 Michigan losing by a combined 41 points, left a rancid aftertaste.

Wisconsin did its best to erase that stench with a win over Arkansas on New Year's Day, a school-record 12th triumph. The Badgers finished ahead of the Wolverines and behind the Buckeyes in both postseason polls. Meanwhile, the Big Ten and SEC were the only leagues with three Top-10 finishers.

Look for Wisconsin and Michigan to battle for the top spot again. And don't be surprised if Coach Bret Bielema's Badgers avenge last season's lone setback when the teams meet on Nov. 10 in Madison.

Coach Lloyd Carr and the Wolverines should be loaded on offense with a balanced attack, the equal of any in the country. The question is how much they will miss four of the first 23 defensive players taken in the NFL Draft.

If the Big Ten plans to add two teams, not just one, to its record total of 15 BCS bids in the last nine seasons, Wisconsin and Michigan will have to play as well as they did during the seasons of 1997-99. Those teams combined to win three straight Rose Bowls.

Penn State and Purdue could challenge the Badgers and Wolverines and should finish in the upper half of the division this year. Both programs have the big-play performers to pull off a major upset along the way.

Ohio State will have to reload without Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Troy Smith and seven other draft picks, including first-round draft picks in wide receivers Ted Ginn Jr. and Anthony Gonzalez. If anyone wants to beat the Buckeyes, this may be the best opportunity.

Expect Iowa to bounce back quickly after a rare seven-loss season. And after last season, there's a reason Michigan State will welcome Mark Dantonio and Minnesota will greet Tim Brewster as new coaches. However, it'll be a major surprise if the Spartans and Golden Gophers don't join Northwestern, Indiana and Illinois in the Big Ten's lower tier.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. ILLINOIS ▸ Zook's hooks catch some of the nation's best again.
2. MICHIGAN ▸ Winged helmets never have a bad recruiting year.
3. OHIO STATE ▸ Plenty of opportunity this year for offensive players.
4. PENN STATE ▸ Even at age 80, Coach Joe Paterno's charm still there for parents.
5. IOWA ▸ Hawkeyes know what they need and how to get it.
6. WISCONSIN ▸ "Bret who?" won't be an issue after Coach Bielema's recruiting class this season.
7. MICHIGAN STATE ▸ Late start for Coach Mark Dantonio's staff but some solid results.
8. NORTHWESTERN ▸ Coach Pat Fitzgerald is almost as young as some of his signees.
9. MINNESOTA ▸ New Coach Tim Brewster got the latest start but showed he could finish.
10. PURDUE ▸ Boilermakers have proven it isn't about the rankings.
11. INDIANA ▸ Decent class, but questions abound about Coach Terry Hoeppner's health situation.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Curtis Painter, Jr., Purdue	Vernon Gholston, Jr., Ohio State	DL
RB	P.J. Hill, So., Wisconsin	Matt Shaughnessy, Jr., Wisconsin	DL
RB	Mike Hart, Sr., Michigan	Terrance Taylor, Jr., Michigan	DL
OL	Jake Long, Sr., Michigan	Kenny Iwebema, Sr., Iowa	DL
OL	Adam Kraus, Sr., Michigan	Dan Connor, Sr., Penn State	LB
OL	Alex Boone, Jr., Ohio State	James Laurinaitis, Jr., Ohio State	LB
OL	Jordan Grimes, Sr., Purdue	J Leman, Sr., Illinois	LB
OL	Kirk Barton, Sr., Ohio State	Jack Ikegwuono, Jr., Wisconsin	DB
WR	Dorien Bryant, Sr., Purdue	Malcolm Jenkins, Jr., Ohio State	DB
WR	Mario Manningham, Jr., Michigan	Otis Wiley, Jr., Michigan State	DB
TE	Travis Beckum, Jr., Wisconsin	Justin King, Jr., Penn State	DB
PK	Taylor Mehlhaff, Sr., Wisconsin	Ken DeBauche, Sr., Wisconsin	P

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. Bret Bielema will have the best first two seasons in Big Ten history when he leads Wisconsin to the 2007 conference crown. He already has the winningest record with a 12-1 debut.

2. Michigan's offense is good enough to deliver wins until the defense develops. Left tackle Jake Long can be better than Wisconsin great Joe Thomas (who went third overall in the 2007 NFL Draft) in what could be Coach Lloyd Carr's last year.

3. Penn State and Purdue will each win one game you wouldn't expect but will both come up short for a title bid. Still, the Nittany Lions and Boilermakers should have enough to finish near the top.

4. The future will be bright for the second division, especially Northwestern in 2008 and Illinois a little further down the line. Coach Ron Zook's aggressive recruiting with the Illini is sure to inspire jealousy and ridicule.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
James Hardy, Indiana

BEST HANDS
Dorien Bryant, WR, Purdue

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Curtis Painter, Purdue

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Juice Williams, Illinois

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Javon Ringer, Michigan State

BEST INSTINCTS
Mike Hart, RB, Michigan

BEST ATHLETE
Derrick Williams, WR/KR, Penn State

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Mario Manningham, WR, Michigan

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Jake Long, OT, Michigan

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois

HARDEST HITTER
James Laurinaitis, LB, Ohio State

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Kellen Davis, TE, Michigan State

"I Own This Town!"

They used to call me Vegas's gutsiest linesmaker because the biggest bettors in town - guys with $100,000, even $500,000 in their hands - couldn't make me move my line.

Now that I've returned to my first love, betting, I am still making unshakable numbers. Only now I am using them to beat the house. **And who would know better? I have all the sources and know all the moves: the pipeline, where the real number is, why they change it, how far off it is and which games are giving us the most extra points!** That' s what I mean by OWN this town. Last year - my first full season as a public handicapper - I won 17 weeks out of 22. Check the records below.

Did you win that big in '06? Well, you can this year. Here's all you do:

Call me now toll free at 1-877-822-2276 also available at VegasSportsMasters.com
or at 1-702-860-2879

And from the pre-season through December,

I'LL GIVE YOU THE SAME GAMES I BET MYSELF -

4, 5 or 6 of my best bets every week - that's 22 weeks of solid winning - all yours... at the charter price of only $199 ! *Plus,*

I GUARANTEE YOU A PROFIT OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

By October 1, if you're not ahead of the game, I'll cancel the rest of the season and refund every penny of your money with no questions asked.

AND you get all my bonus games anyway, like my:

- **Hall of Fame Game: Aug 5, Saints/Steelers**
  WON '06: Raiders (+3) Eagles 16-10
- **My Pre-Season Game of the Year**
  WON '06: Bengals (-4 1/2) Packers 48-17
- **My September College Game of the Year**
  WON '06: LSU (-15) Ariz 45-3
- **My September Pro Game of the Year**
  WON '06: Broncos (+6 1/2) Pats 17-7 and more

What a deal! A chance to play with #1, and win like #1! And best of all, you'll never have to wonder where the right number is or who the wise guys like. Because from now on, YOU'VE got the right number and YOU'RE the wise guy!

Nicky

Anybody can have an opinion. But when Nick Bogdanovich says Miami -7, a hundred wise guys rush to the windows to get a bet down.

When he was head linesmaker at Binion's Horseshoe - and later at the Stratosphere and the Mandalay Bay - Nick's lines were like Shakespeare: you could quote them, but you couldn't beat them. Big players tried. Black satchels flew in from the Apple, Hong Kong, Miami and Fleet Street; mostly empty bags came out. Nicky never went down for the count and neither will you if you join him because now that Nicky is on OUR side, he still calls the tune, only now it's we PLAYERS who dance our way to the bank!

Can you handle win streaks of 11-0 and 12-0? How about being ahead 54 units by week eight? Or stepping in on laughers like our 10-star BOARD BUSTER games that went 16 and 5 on the season for 76.2%!

S10	Cowboys (+2) Jaguars	17-24	L				
S16	Lou'ville (-4) Miami	31-7	W				
S17	Cowboys (-6 1/2) Redskns	27-10	W				
O 8	Vikings (-6 1/2) Lions	26-17	W	N 4	Tex Tech(-16) Baylor	55-21	W
	Eagles (-1 1/2) Cowboys	38-24	W	N12	Titans (+7) Ravens	26-27	W
O12	Colo St (+6) AFA	21-24	W	N18	Michigan (+7) Ohio St	39-42	W
O14	LSU (-26) Kentucky	49-0	W		Alabama (+3) Auburn	15-22	L
	Oklahoma (-19) Iowa St	34-9	W	N19	Pats (-5 1/2)Packers	35-0	W
O15	Redskins (-10) Titans	22-25	L	N23	Dolphins (-3) Lions	27-10	W
O23	Giants/Cowboys (↑44 1/2)	36-22	W		Chiefs (-1) Broncos	19-10	W
O28	So Miss (-5 1/2) E Car	17-20	L	N24	Fresno St(-12)La Tech	34-27	L
O29	Raiders (+9 1/2)Steelers	20-13	W	N26	Bengals (-3) Browns	30-0	W

Jack Binion,
owner of the old Binion's horseshoe, says "We played super high at the horseshoe because Nick was always prepared - his line was solid as a rock... the biggest players couldn't beat him. Now that he's a player, the biggest books can't stop him!"

Lem Banker,
called "the most successful gambler in the U.S." by Wall Street Journal, says: "I've been gambling my entire life. I've met all the wise guys and wannabes. One of the few guys who has been successful on both sides of the counter is Nick Bogdanovich. He is smart and well prepared. A guy I would definitely invest in."

NICK BOGDANOVICH
3540 W. Sahara Ave. Ste. 732
Las Vegas, NV 89102-5816

BCS BOWL

TOP 25 SELECTION

#1 WISCONSIN BADGERS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 12-1 » **Big Ten:** 7-1 *(beat Arkansas in the Capital One Bowl, 17-14)*

Madison **Stadium:** Camp Randall Stadium (80,321) **Tickets:** 608-262-1440

RB › P.J. Hill

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Bret Bielema**
2nd year (12-1) **Career Record:** 12-1

Official athletic Web site: www.uwbadgers.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Washington State**	
S. 8	@UNLV	
S. 15	**Citadel**	
S. 22	**Iowa**	24-21
S. 29	**Michigan State**	
O. 6	@ILLINOIS	30-24
O. 13	@PENN STATE	13-3
O. 20	**Northern Illinois**	
O. 27	**Indiana**	52-17
N. 3	@OHIO STATE	
N. 10	» **MICHIGAN**	13-27
N. 17	@MINNESOTA	48-12

» GAME TO WATCH «

The beer will be flowing and plenty of brats will be on the grill for the Big Ten's matchup of the year.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	12	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2005	10	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2004	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2003	7	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2002	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **18**
Lettermen returning/lost: **49/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Tyler Donovan (6-1, 187, Sr.)
FB	34	Bill Rentmeester (6-0, 250, Jr.)
RB	39	P.J. Hill (5-11, 222, So.)
LT	78	Jake Bscherer (6-7, 297, So.)
LG	75	Andy Kemp (6-6, 322, Jr.)
C	65	Marcus Coleman (6-6, 302, Sr.)
RG	63	Kraig Urbik (6-6, 330, Jr.)
RT	71	Eric Vanden Heuvel (6-7, 323, Jr.)
TE	9	Travis Beckum (6-4, 221, Jr.)
WR	1	Luke Swan (6-0, 193, Sr.)
WR	19	Paul Hubbard (6-4, 215, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	34	Kurt Ware (6-4, 282, Sr.)
LT	91	Jason Chapman (6-4, 289, Jr.)
RT	96	Nick Hayden (6-5, 300, Sr.)
RE	92	Matt Shaughnessy (6-6, 242, Jr.)
SLB	11	DeAndre Levy (6-3, 223, Jr.)
MLB	52	Elijah Hodge (6-1, 232, So.)
WLB	2	Jonathan Casillas (6-2, 212, Jr.)
LC	17	Allen Langford (5-11, 196, Jr.)
RC	6	Jack Ikegwuonu (6-1, 201, Jr.)
FS	25	Shane Carter (6-2, 204, So.)
SS	28	Aubrey Pleasant (6-0, 206, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Taylor Mehlhaff (5-11, 185, Sr.)
P	94	Ken DeBauche (6-2, 220, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stellar defense, Hill's rushing make Badgers team to beat

When Barry Alvarez stepped down as Wisconsin's head coach after 118 victories (including three Rose Bowl titles), he wasn't finished contributing. One of his wisest moves in Madison was naming former Badgers Defensive Coordinator Bret Bielema to replace him.

Bielema, the second-youngest leader in Division I-A football at age 37, had a near-perfect debut last season. He led the Badgers to a 7-1 Big Ten mark and a 12-1 overall record, becoming just the third rookie coach to produce 12 wins.

The 2006 Big Ten Coach of the Year was one of five finalists for the Bear Bryant Award as National Coach of the Year. And why wouldn't he be? The Badgers overachieved and finished first in the nation in pass defense, second to only Virginia Tech in points permitted (12.1 per game) and fifth in yards allowed (253.1).

Wisconsin won't be the same team without All-America offensive tackle Joe Thomas, the third player taken in the NFL Draft, and dependable quarterback John Stocco. The Badgers could miss their top two tacklers, linebacker Mark Zalewski and safety Joe Stellmacher, almost as much.

Thomas was a once-in-a-generation lineman for Wisconsin and should be a major star with the often-clueless Cleveland Browns. It's a fair proposition to say the Badgers will win more games in 13 chances this season than the Browns will in 32 tries over the next two years.

The Badgers' consistency suggests that could happen. Wisconsin is one of just nine Division I-A schools to win at least nine games in each of the past three seasons, joining Auburn, Boise State, Boston College, LSU, Louisville, USC, Texas and Virginia Tech.

Or to put it another way, the Badgers' 31-7 mark the past three seasons is tops in the Big Ten and sixth best in the country behind USC, Texas, Auburn, Boise State and Louisville. And Wisconsin's nine-game winning streak is the third-longest in the nation behind Boise State (13) and BYU (10).

No one expected that level of consistency with a new coach and the second-youngest team in the conference last year. Only Indiana had more eligibility left in its two-deep lineup. But the Hoosiers' losses weren't nearly as important as the Badgers' departures, including five NFL selections in 2006.

Bielema began last season with a redshirt freshman at tailback and a group of receivers with just one combined career catch. But that tailback, P.J. Hill, became the Big Ten's top rusher and a third-team All-American with 1,569 yards on the ground. And those receivers—tight end Travis Beckum and wideouts Paul Hubbard and Luke Swan—combined for 134 grabs.

Barring the sophomore jinx, Hill should be one of the league's three best ball-carriers in 2007. At 5-foot-11 and 222 pounds, he showed great durability last season with 311 carries. He scored 16 total touchdowns and became just the fifth freshman in NCAA history to run for at least 1,000 yards in his first seven games.

If he wasn't quite Ron Dayne, Wisconsin's second-ever Heisman winner, Hill was more than most opponents could handle. His 249 rushing yards against Northwestern were the fifth-highest total in the country last season. While Hill sat out the spring to finish rehabbing a surgically repaired shoulder, it gave an opportunity for sophomore Lance Smith to show what he could do.

Beckum was a second-team All-American as a sophomore and a semifinalist for the John Mackey Award as the nation's top tight end. Beckum's 61 catches were the third-highest total in school history, while his 903 receiving yards ranked fifth.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

THE NEXT BIG THING

» ALLAN EVRIDGE, QB

The Kansas State transfer might not overtake Tyler Donovan immediately, but he should seize the opportunity when it arises.

Though he only made 10 starts, Beckum had at least one catch in all 13 of the Badgers' games. The former *Parade* All-America linebacker also saved his best for last with five grabs for 82 yards and a game-winning 13-yard score in the Capital One Bowl. His position also has depth with senior Andy Crooks, who had 19 catches and was solid in two-tight-end formations.

Hubbard was a pleasant surprise as a junior, going from one reception to 38 and four yards to 627 over 2005. The former walk-on and Junior Olympics long jump and triple jump champion also had four catches for 73 yards (including a 22-yard score) against Arkansas in the bowl win.

Swan made his first career grab in the opener against Bowling Green and picked up the pace from there. He finished with 35 catches for 595 yards, five TDs and a team-high average of 17.0 yards per catch. With Beckum and Hubbard drawing so much attention, Swan is a quarterback away from greater success.

That new signal-caller should be Tyler Donovan or junior Allan Evridge, with sophomore Dustin Sherer waiting impatiently. The Badgers' starter won't have to win games the way most do. But he will need a little of Stocco's steadiness.

Donovan threw for 564 yards and four scores with two interceptions, and actually had a better completion percentage than Stocco (63.8 to 59.0) in seven appearances last season. But the question is whether he or Evridge, a Kansas State transfer, can be as productive as Stocco was on the scoreboard. Wisconsin was seventh in the league in passing, fourth in rushing and fifth in total offense, and tied for second in scoring at 29.2 points per game.

It's never easy to lose a player as dominant as Thomas. But don't shed any tears for the Badgers, who should control play with four starting linemen returning. Center Marcus Coleman (6-6, 302), a fifth-year senior, and junior right tackle Eric Vanden Heuvel (6-7, 323) are the best bets for All-Big Ten honors. But juniors Andy Kemp (6-6, 322) and Kraig Urbik (6-6, 330) could be one of the top sets of guards in the country before they leave Camp Randall Stadium.

Wisconsin's blockers are always huge and often bigger than NFL fronts. So if sophomore Jake Bscherer (6-7, 297) and freshman Gabe Carimi (6-8, 292) are comparative lightweights, just wait until they stop growing. Wisconsin should also get help from Bill Rentmeester and Chris Pressley (6-1, 271), both junior fullbacks and lead blockers for Hill and Smith.

The returnees on defense include junior cornerback Jack Ikegwuonu, junior end Matt Shaughnessy and senior tackle Nick Hayden. Ikegwuonu was first-team All-Big Ten last season after making 41 tackles, breaking up 13 passes, intercepting two balls and scoring on a 50-yard fumble recovery. Shaughnessy was second-team all-conference, while Hayden has started 26 straight games.

Also back are junior defensive tackle Jason Chapman, junior linebackers Jonathan Casillas and DeAndre Levy and junior cornerback Allen Langford. Levy had six sacks last season and could become a dominant pass rusher.

But the Badgers' big advantage is their kicking game. Senior Taylor Mehlhaff, a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award in 2006, was 15-for-20 in field-goal attempts and perfect on 47 extra points last season. Fifth-year punter Ken DeBauche, a second-team All-American in 2005, can do better than last year's 41.8-yard average. And the Badgers can improve on a 7-1 conference record if the right players stay healthy.

RECRUITING REPORT

Wisconsin signed a small but solid class of 19 prospects, including two national in-state recruits: offensive lineman **Josh Oglesby** (6-7, 315) and running back **John Clay** (6-0, 220). Oglesby was ranked by some services as the top offensive-line prospect in the land and was an early commitment—and major catch—for the Badgers. Oglesby injured a knee in the fourth game of his senior season and didn't play again, but has recovered and expects to be at full strength when he reports to school.

Clay, who was the *Student Sports* magazine National Junior of the Year, was compared to state legend Alan Ameche by some veteran local media members and is regarded as one of the top prep running backs in state history. Last season, Clay nursed a sprained ankle much of the time and didn't post the same numbers that he had as a junior (12.2 yards per carry). Clay did average 8.1 yards a carry, but had some fumble problems.

The in-state pair aren't the only recruits creating a buzz in Madison.

Touted newcomers include two quarterbacks—Michigan product **James Stallions** (6-6, 180) and Kansas State transfer **Allan Evridge** (6-1, 210)—and wide receivers **Nick Toon** (6-3, 175) and **Kyle Jefferson** (6-5, 195). Toon, the son of former Wisconsin and New York Jets great Al Toon, is an in-state product. Jefferson played at Cleveland's Glenville High, which recently produced Ohio's State Troy Smith and Ted Ginn Jr.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	WISCONSIN	OPP
SCORING	380	157
Points Per Game	29.2	12.1
FIRST DOWNS	245	178
Rushing	110	72
Passing	122	87
Penalty	13	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2102	1492
Yards gained rushing	2448	1758
Yards lost rushing	346	266
Rushing Attempts	536	388
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.8
Average Per Game	161.7	114.8
TDs Rushing	24	9
PASSING YARDAGE	2749	1798
Att-Comp-Int	331-195-9	387-185-15
Average Per Pass	8.3	4.6
Average Per Catch	14.1	9.7
Average Per Game	211.5	138.3
TDs Passing	21	6
TOTAL OFFENSE	4851	3290
Total Plays	867	775
Average Per Play	5.6	4.2
Average Per Game	373.2	253.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	27-405	32-663
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-237	31-177
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	15-113	9-87
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	15.0	20.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	6.6	5.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	7.5	9.7
FUMBLES-LOST	29-16	21-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	61-485	58-498
Average Per Game	37.3	38.3
PUNTS-YARDS	59-2468	91-3303
Average Per Punt	41.8	36.3
Net punt average	37.5	31.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:26	26:34
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/169	51/181
3rd-Down Pct	41%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/15	4/20
4th-Down Pct	33%	20%
SACKS BY-YARDS	29-175	30-219
MISC YARDS	0	2
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	48	18
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	15-20	10-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	47-47 100%	17-18 94%
ATTENDANCE	569576	271896
Games/Avg Per Game	7/81368	4/67974
Neutral Site Games		2/45540

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Wisconsin	85	131	88	76	380
Opponents	39	47	16	55	157

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
John Stocco						
11	143.90	268-158-6	59.0	2185	17	198.6
Tyler Donovan						
7	161.34	58-37-2	63.8	564	4	80.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
P.J. Hill	13	311	1569	5.0	15	120.7
Lance Smith	12	95	345	3.6	5	28.8
Dywon Rowan	13	39	199	4.7	3	14.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Travis Beckum	13	61	903	14.8	5	69.5
Paul Hubbard	13	38	627	16.5	5	48.2
Luke Swan	13	35	595	17.0	5	45.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Mark Zalewski	13	55	35	90
Joe Stellmacher	13	53	31	84
Jonathan Casillas	13	53	30	83

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
DeAndre Levy	13	6.0	38
Jason Chapman	13	5.0	37
Matthew Shaughnessy	13	4.0	28

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Allen Langford	3	944	3.0	0
Roderic Rogers	2	25	22.0	0
Joe Stellmacher	2	59	12.5	1

TOP 25 SELECTION

#2 MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 11-2 » **Big Ten:** 7-1 *(lost to USC in the Rose Bowl, 32-18)*

Ann Arbor **Stadium:** Michigan Stadium (107,501) **Tickets:** 866-296-6849

TB » Mike Hart

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Lloyd Carr**
13th year (113-36) **Career Record:** 113-36

Official athletic Web site: www.mgoblue.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Appalachian State**	
S. 8	**Oregon**	
S. 15	**Notre Dame**	47-21
S. 22	**Penn State**	17-10
S. 29	@NORTHWESTERN	17-3
O. 6	**Eastern Michigan**	
O. 13	**Purdue**	
O. 20	@ILLINOIS	
O. 27	**Minnesota**	28-14
N. 3	@MICHIGAN STATE	31-13
N. 10	@WISCONSIN	27-13
N.17	» **Ohio State**	39-42

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

This almost has to be the year Lloyd Carr's team gets the best of Jim Tressel's. If not . . .

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11	C
2005	7	C
2004	9	C B
2003	10	C B N
2002	10	C

C CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL N NATIONAL TITLE

Led by Henne, powerful offense will pace Wolverines

The winningest program in college football history was 10-0 and No. 2 in the polls the morning of Nov. 17, 2006. All seemed right with the world in Ann Arbor—or as right as life could be for Lloyd Carr, his staff and the Wolverines a day before the game with top-ranked Ohio State in Columbus.

Suddenly, the news began to circulate. Coaching icon Bo Schembechler had died after another heart attack, nearly 37 years after his first episode. A pall fell over the Maize and Blue. And despite a "Win One for Bo" mantra, Michigan was riddled through the air in a 42-39 loss to the Buckeyes and a 32-18 no-show against USC in the Rose Bowl.

The Wolverines finished 7-1 in the league and 11-2 overall, and were eighth and ninth in the respective final polls. For most teams, those numbers would mean a sweet celebration and a happy offseason. But for Michigan, they only brought three maddening questions: Why is Carr 1-5 against OSU Coach Jim Tressel? Why are the Wolverines 1-5 in their last six bowl games? Why haven't the they won a late-season game that matters since November 2003?

If offense wins in the 21st century, those late-season problems could vanish. Michigan's rushing and passing games could be as good as any in the nation. And if Defensive Coordinator Ron English can find replacements for five outstanding players, Carr could enjoy 2007 as much as when he won a national title 10 years earlier.

The fun starts with senior running back Mike Hart, who gains more yards after contact than any player his size (5-9, 196) in the country. A fifth-place finisher in the 2006 Heisman balloting, Hart rushed for 1,562 yards and 14 touchdowns (seven yards and one TD less than Wisconsin's P.J. Hill) last season, and was the only back in the country to run for at least 90 yards in every game.

With 3,679 yards in three years, Hart is the nation's top active rusher, while his average of 111.5 yards per game is tops in Michigan football history. With 175 more carries and 794 yards, Hart will break Anthony Thompson's career marks of 924 attempts and 4,472 yards. Expect that to happen in mid-October.

Junior Kevin Grady, Hart's backup the past two years, tore an ACL in spring drills and has plenty of tough work ahead. But sophomore Brandon Minor is a more explosive runner than Grady and actually had a better average per carry than Hart (5.7 to 4.9).

The player carrying the greatest responsibility will be senior quarterback Chad Henne, a rocket-armed fourth-year starter who's a combined 0-6 against the Buckeyes and bowl opponents. Last year's numbers (203-for-328 for 2,508 yards and 22 TDs with eight interceptions) were more than good enough. The last two performances of the season weren't.

This year's challenge is simple. With records and honors well within reach, Henne has to play more like Michigan's championship-winning QB Brian Griese (a consummate leader) than former Wolverine Drew Henson (a better passer). Henne also needs to help groom his successor, incoming *Parade* All-American Ryan Mallett (6-6, 247), who took part in spring ball.

Henne-watchers and numerologists will love this one. No. 7 has thrown for 7,777 yards and 70 touchdowns in his first three seasons. Now, if only he can just put another seven points on the scoreboard against OSU. But long before that, Henne should break John Navarre's Michigan career marks of 765 completions for 9,254 yards, needing just 100 more connections and 1,478 yards. And don't be surprised if that happens in the same game when Hart becomes the Wolverines' No. 1 rusher.

Both players will benefit greatly from the team's best pro prospect, senior left tackle Jake Long, the 2006 Big Ten

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **11**
Lettermen returning/lost: **35/33**

» OFFENSE		
QB	7	Chad Henne (6-2, 224, Sr.)
FB	36	Quintin Patilla (6-1, 234, So.)
TB	20	Mike Hart (5-9, 196, Sr.)
LT	77	Jake Long (6-7, 313, r-Sr.)
LG	57	Adam Kraus (6-6, 297, r-Sr.)
C	65	Justin Boren (6-3, 310, So.)
RG	73	Alex Mitchell (6-5, 313, Sr.)
RT	52	Stephen Schilling (6-5, 297, So.)
TE	83	Mike Massey (6-4, 229, Sr.)
WR	86	Mario Manningham (6-0, 181, Jr.)
WR	16	Adrian Arrington (6-3, 190, Sr.)
» DEFENSE		
DE	90	Tim Jamison (6-3, 266, Sr.)
DT	97	Will Johnson (6-5, 291, Sr.)
DT	67	Terrance Taylor (6-0, 310, Jr.)
DE	55	Brandon Graham (6-2, 276, So.)
SLB	2	Shawn Crable (6-5, 245, r-Sr.)
MLB	49	John Thompson (6-1, 230, Sr.)
WLB	37	Chris Graham (5-11, 225, Sr.)
LCB	25	Johnny Sears (6-0, 190, Jr.)
RCB	14	Morgan Trent (6-1, 189, Sr.)
FS	3	Stevie Brown (6-0, 208, So.)
SS	22	Jamar Adams (6-2, 212, Sr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	43	Bryan Wright (6-1, 215, So.)
P	41	Zoltan Mesko (6-4, 242, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

STEVE BEYER

THE NEXT BIG THING

GREG MATHEWS, WR

A spring star, the sophomore will replace Steve Breaston and perhaps Adrian Arrington. Most defenses will fear Mario Manningham first.

Offensive Lineman of the Year. Long is a devastating drive-blocker and a mountain of a pass protector. When Hart runs stretch plays to Long's side, it's almost unfair.

Versatile fifth-year left guard Adam Kraus, another first-team All-Big Ten choice, would be the best lineman in a lot of programs. So would senior right guard Alex Mitchell. But in Ann Arbor, they can only be second and third, respectively, provided sophomore center Justin Boren doesn't overtake them.

Henne's top target is junior wide receiver Mario Manningham, yet another All-Big Ten returnee. "Super Mario" had 38 catches for 703 yards and nine TDs in an injury-plagued season, though it seemed that he had twice that production from some omnipresent replays. Manningham can make cornerbacks look downright silly with sucker moves on deep routes.

Just ask Notre Dame, as Manningham has burned the Irish for four scores in two matchups. He also beat Penn State with a last-snap TD as a freshman. And 14 of his 15 career scores have come from outside the red zone. When secondaries cheat up to help against Hart, play-action passes to Manningham usually mean a call for the extra-point team.

Senior Adrian Arrington was suspended by Carr for spring ball after domestic violence charges were dropped last December. He actually caught two more passes than Manningham last season and scored eight times. But even if Arrington is reinstated, he could lose playing time to sophomore wideout Greg Mathews, one of the spring's standouts.

The stars of Michigan's 2006 defense had good springs, too. Four of them were selected in the NFL Draft by the middle of the second round. And aside from the Wolverines' final two games last season, cornerback Leon Hall, tackle Alan Branch, end LaMarr Woodley and inside linebacker David Harris certainly deserved that.

The defense hasn't lost all its stars, though. It just hasn't identified them yet. That should change with the emergence of junior defensive tackle Terrance Taylor, fifth-year outside linebacker Shawn Crable, senior safety Jamar Adams and senior cornerback Morgan Trent.

Taylor has amazing quickness and just needs to harness that potential. Crable, who was offered transfer papers by Carr a few years back, could be set for a special farewell. Adams should be solid at safety, while Trent has the speed and experience to be a No. 1 cornerback. Still, there's this lingering vision of Ohio State and USC receivers running free in the secondary.

With just four starters back, Michigan might be a much better defense in its three November games than its five September contests. Fortunately, the Wolverines will play their first four games at home, including visits by Oregon, Notre Dame and Penn State in successive weeks.

Carr always has talent on defense. That means some little-known players will soon be "Big House"-hold names wherever the winged helmet is worshipped. Top candidates include senior tackle Will Johnson and senior linebacker John Thompson, though the latter could be pushed by junior Austin Panter, a junior-college transfer, and sophomore Obi Ezeh.

The secondary has several candidates to join Adams and Trent in the starting lineup. Fifth-year safety Brandent Englemon, senior safety Charles Stewart and sophomore safety Stevie Brown all expect to play. Junior cornerback Doug Dutch was once a promising wideout.

Junior punter Zoltan Mesko could become one of the Wolverines' best after averaging 41.6 yards per punt last year. The placekicking remains uncertain. Sophomore Bryan Wright and seniors Jason Gingell and K.C. Lopata will vie to replace Garrett Rivas. And Michigan is sure to miss Steve Breaston, one of the best kick returners in Big Ten history. Carr just hopes his team returns more punts than kickoffs.

RECRUITING REPORT

With Texas prep All-America quarterback **Ryan Mallett** (6-6, 247) being the top name, the Wolverines posted the No. 1 recruiting class in the Big Ten.

The strong-armed Mallett, from Texarkana, was a major national recruit who passed for 2,591 yards and 27 touchdowns last season. He could be the offensive leader to replace current signal-caller Chad Henne.

While Mallett leads the list, there's much more to support any claims why the Wolverine class is rated No. 11 nationally by *Street & Smith's*.

The Michigan coaching staff went to California to land two touted defensive backs—**Donovan Warren** (6-0, 185) from famed football factory Long Beach Poly and **Michael Williams** (5-11, 190) of St. Bonaventure in Ventura. Warren, who impressed at a postseason All-American game in Texas, could play soon. Other promising defensive backs include **Artis Chambers** (6-2, 185) from Indiana and **Troy Woolfork** (5-11, 175) of Texas. In-state, the Wolverines landed athlete **Kelvin Grady** (5-10, 165), brother of current running back **Kevin Grady**. —*Doug Huff*

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	MICHIGAN	OPP
SCORING	380	207
Points Per Game	29.2	15.9
FIRST DOWNS	251	188
Rushing	120	37
Passing	118	132
Penalty	13	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2282	564
Yards gained rushing	2538	1028
Yards lost rushing	256	464
Rushing Attempts	535	301
Average Per Rush	4.3	1.9
Average Per Game	175.5	43.4
TDs Rushing	21	5
PASSING YARDAGE	2538	2924
Att-Comp-Int	331-206-8	488-262-12
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.0
Average Per Catch	12.3	11.2
Average Per Game	195.2	224.9
TDs Passing	22	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	4820	3488
Total Plays	866	789
Average Per Play	5.6	4.4
Average Per Game	370.8	268.3
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	32-616	60-1318
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	33-357	27-187
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	12-96	8-146
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.2	22.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.8	6.9
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.0	18.2
FUMBLES-LOST	13-4	19-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	62-570	63-501
Average Per Game	43.8	38.5
PUNTS-YARDS	64-2542	84-3521
Average Per Punt	39.7	41.9
Net punt average	34.9	36.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:34	26:26
3RD-DOWN CONV.	72/180	53/182
3rd-Down Pct	40%	29%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/12	8/20
4th-Down Pct	67%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	43-333	24-159
MISC YARDS	-17	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	47	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	17-20	11-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	43-45 96%	22-24 92%
ATTENDANCE	1540366	779270
Games/Avg Per Game	14/110026	10/77927
Neutral Site Games		2/93852

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Michigan	93	111	95	81	380
Opponent	33	64	46	64	207

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Chad Henne						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	143.36	328-203-8	61.9	2508	22	192.9

Jason Forcier						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	184.00	3-3-0	100.0	30	0	6.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mike Hart	13	318	1562	4.9	14	120.2
Brandon Minor	11	42	238	5.7	2	21.6
Jerome Jackson	7	28	213	7.6	2	30.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Steve Breaston	13	58	670	11.6	2	51.5
Adrian Arrington	13	40	544	13.6	8	41.8
Mario Manningham	10	38	703	18.5	9	70.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
David Harris	13	70	33	103
Prescott Burgess	12	32	18	50
Jamar Adams	13	39	8	47

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
LaMarr Woodley	13	12.0	119
Rondell Biggs	13	6.0	32
Tim Jamison	12	5.0	29

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Leon Hall	3	10	3.3	0
Prescott Burgess	2	66	33.0	1
Max Pollock	1	12	12.0	1

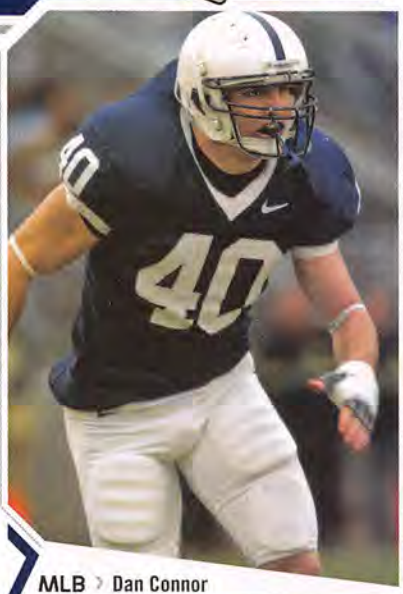
#3 PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

TOP 25 SELECTION

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-4 » Big Ten: 5-3 *(beat Tennessee in the Outback Bowl, 20-10)*

University Park Stadium: Beaver Stadium (107,282) Tickets: 800-833-5533



MLB › Dan Connor

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

» Head Coach: Joe Paterno
42nd year (363-121-3) Career Record: 363-121-3

Official athletic Web site: www.gopsusports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	Florida International	
S. 8	Notre Dame	17-41
S. 15	Buffalo	
S. 22	@MICHIGAN	10-17
S. 29	@ILLINOIS	26-12
O. 6	Iowa	
O. 13	Wisconsin	3-13
O. 20	@INDIANA	
O. 27	» Ohio State	6-28
N. 3	Purdue	12-0
N. 10	@TEMPLE	47-0
N. 17	@MICHIGAN STATE	17-13

GAME TO WATCH

With three of Penn State's first five league games on the road, the dash for a New Year's Day bowl begins.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2005	11	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2004	4	
2003	3	
2002	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL

CONFERENCE TITLE BOWL NATIONAL TITLE

Record-setting 23rd bowl win a strong possibility for JoePa

If life begins at 40, what begins at 80? Well, Joe Paterno's 42nd season as the coach in Happy Valley, for one thing.

It doesn't matter that JoePa is 11 years older than Wisconsin's Bret Bielema and Northwestern's Pat Fitzgerald combined. What matters most is that Penn State should compete for another league title this fall in its 15th season of Big Ten play. And if the Nittany Lions can win another bowl game, Paterno will have an NCAA-record 23 postseason triumphs, five more than Michigan has had since its first appearance in 1902.

Paterno is 16-6 in January, counting last season's 20-10 Outback Bowl win over Tennessee, and 12-4 in games that constitute the Bowl Championship Series. Both totals could grow in 2008. The only coach with victories in all four major bowls has a team that could wind up smelling like roses.

Only a fool would put that past the second-winningest coach in Division I-A history. He was supposed to be finished years ago. But with 11 wins in 2005 and nine more last season, Paterno's career mark stands at 363-121-3. If that number seems surreal, try this one—there have been almost as many coaching changes since he took over for his mentor, Rip Engle.

A few things have changed in the shadow of Mount Nittany. No, Paterno hasn't decided to slap decals on the side of a classic, clean helmet. And he hasn't traded his trademark glasses for contact lenses and an earring. But Paterno has changed enough aspects of his program to go from the endangered species list to a Lion with some mighty roars left.

Penn State is 12-4 in conference play the past two years and should be 6-2 or better again if quarterback Anthony Morelli and linebacker Dan Connor have big senior seasons, as expected. The Nittany Lions have balance and a great blend of experience and youthful exuberance.

Part of that excitement is winning five of the last six games and not allowing more than 13 points since a 17-10 loss to Michigan. Another is seeing 71,000 people in the stands for your final spring scrimmage.

Paterno saw enough in the spring to think Morelli can be excellent as a passer and leader in his final opportunity. He can certainly complete more than 53.9 percent of his passes for 2,424 yards and 11 touchdowns. Look for close to 60-percent accuracy, 3,000 yards and 20 TDs if Morelli and his teammates stay reasonably healthy.

Carrying the burden of high expectations, he wasn't the equal of Michael Robinson. But that's an unfair comparison style-wise. Morelli is more of a Kerry Collins-type. And in Collins' final season, Penn State thought it was robbed of a national title.

Morelli's top four receivers are as good as any group in the conference, if not the country. Junior wideouts Deon Butler, Jordan Norwood and Derrick Williams play a lot bigger than they look, and sophomore tight end Andrew Quarless has a chance to be as good as he wants.

Butler, a former walk-on, was Morelli's No. 1 target with 48 catches for 637 yards last season, but just two TDs. To describe him as Mr. Dependable is probably another slight. Norwood added 45 catches for 472 yards and two scores—great numbers for someone who sits in most two-wideout sets.

But it's Williams, one of the nation's top recruits two years ago, who has the ability to rewrite the Nittany Lions' record book. He caught 40 balls for just 440 yards and one score in 2006 and ran for another 145 yards and a TD. However,

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **33/23**

» OFFENSE		
QB	14	Anthony Morelli (6-4, 232, Sr.)
FB	34	Matt Hahn (6-0, 236, Sr.)
TB	33	Austin Scott (6-0, 222, Sr.)
LT	73	Dennis Landolt (6-4, 294, r-So.)
LG	64	Rich Ohrnberger (6-2, 289, Jr.)
C	57	A.Q. Shipley (6-1, 293, r-Jr.)
RG	78	John Shaw (6-4, 303, Sr.)
RT	76	Gerald Cadogan (6-5, 313, r-Jr.)
TE	10	Andrew Quarless (6-5, 252, So.)
WR	3	Deon Butler (5-10, 168, r-Jr.)
WR	2	Derrick Williams (6-0, 203, Jr.)
» DEFENSE		
LE	47	Josh Gaines (6-1, 264, Jr.)
LT	90	Phillip Taylor (6-4, 337, So.)
RT	97	Abe Koroma (6-3, 312, r-Fr.)
RE	48	Maurice Evans (6-2, 269, So.)
OLB	18	Navorro Bowman (6-1, 228, r-Fr.)
MLB	40	Dan Connor (6-3, 233, Sr.)
OLB	45	Sean Lee (6-2, 232, Jr.)
LCB	1	Justin King (6-0, 186, Jr.)
RCB	10	Lydell Sargeant (5-10, 186, Jr.)
FS	11	Tony Davis (5-10, 197, r-Jr.)
SS	7	Anthony Scirrotto (6-0, 195, Jr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	23	Kevin Kelly (5-7, 167, Jr.)
P	41	Jeremy Boone (5-9, 183, r-So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

RANDY LITZINGER

THE NEXT BIG THING

MAURICE EVANS, DE

The sophomore has gained size and strength since January and could be a terrific pass rusher, based on his strong spring performance.

Williams could use improvement on last year's averages of 11.0 yards a catch and 4.0 yards a carry. He needs to be an impact player at all times, including kick returns.

Quarless had 21 receptions for 288 yards and two scores in his first opportunity. That he averaged 2.7 more yards per catch than Williams and had one more TD grab speaks to Penn State's problems and its untapped potential in the passing game.

The Nittany Lions will miss running back Tony Hunt's combined totals last year of 1,645 yards. But don't expect a huge falloff, just more job-sharing than fans are used to seeing. Seniors Austin Scott and Rodney Kinlaw (5-9, 201) could be a surprising tandem running behind underrated senior fullback Matt Hahn. Scott just has to stay healthy. Kinlaw was the team's No. 2 rusher last season with 199 yards and had a better average than Hunt (5.1 to 5.0).

The offensive line is sure to miss left tackle Levi Brown, who should start for the Arizona Cardinals for the next 10 years, and left guard Robert Price. The Lions could have used right guard Elijah Robinson too, but won't have him after a career-ending spinal condition was diagnosed.

That means the line will need big years from three returning starters—junior center A.Q. Shipley (6-1, 293), junior guard Rich Ohrnberger (6-2, 289) and senior guard John Shaw (6-4, 303). Others who could play key roles include sophomore Dennis Landolt (6-4, 294), junior Gerald Cadogan (6-5, 313) and redshirt freshman Lou Eliades (6-4, 305).

The defense returns six starters but will have to replace tackle machine Paul Posluszny, considered the best linebacker in school history by NFL Hall-of-Famer Jack Ham. Linemen Jay Alford and Tim Shaw will also be missed, especially early in the year. But help is on the way for junior end Josh Gaines, the lone returning starter up front.

Sophomore end Maurice Evans had a great spring and finally has the size to go with his exceptional quickness. Fellow sophomore Jared Odrick, a converted end, also added weight and strength and should help at tackle. Competition on the line could be a great motivator or a sign that holes have yet to be plugged.

Connor, the Nittany Lions' top defender, will move to middle linebacker. If he isn't Posluszny's equal, Connor should be pretty close after making 113 stops on the outside. Paterno thinks Connor is finally at his natural position. Don't be surprised if he's a first-team All-American and Butkus Award candidate.

Junior Sean Lee had 90 stops last season at the other outside linebacker spot. That means sophomore Jerome Hayes, junior Tyrell Sales and redshirt freshman Navorro Bowman have opportunities to be part of the best unit in the country.

The secondary should be excellent with juniors Tony Davis and Justin King returning along with Anthony Scirrotto, last season's fourth-leading tackler. However, Scirrotto is facing multiple charges after a fight and burglary at an apartment near campus.

Junior Kevin Kelly is one of the nation's smallest players. But he could be one of the best placekickers if Kelly's consistency ever matches his range. He can do much better than 22-for-34. Sophomore punter Jeremy Boone performed well under pressure all spring. Williams can be one of the best punt and kick returners Paterno has seen. And it's safe to say he has seen a few.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Nittany Lions continued their reputation as Linebacker U. by landing three touted 'backers in this year's recruiting class: **Chris Colasanti** (6-2, 215) from Michigan, **Andrew Dailey** (6-3, 215) of Ohio and **Nate Stupar** (6-3, 230) from State College High near the Penn State campus.

Besides the linebackers, the Lions concentrated on offensive linemen and appeared to do well in that area.

The blocking prospects include two junior-college transfers for the first time in nearly two decades at Penn State—**Ako Poti** (6-5, 300) from California and **Nerraw McCormick** (6-6, 295) of New York.

Other promising line recruits include in-state talent **Josh Marks** (6-5, 290) and **Stefen Wisniewski** (6-3, 280), plus **Quinn Barham** (6-4, 280) from North Carolina. Another O-line prospect is Delaware product **Andrew Szczerba** (6-7, 265), who played tight end and defensive end in high school.

One of the most intriguing newcomers is defensive lineman **Chimaeze Okoli** (6-5, 275) of Virginia Beach, Va. A late bloomer with upside, Okoli has played organized football for only two years.

Another heralded defender is lineman **Devon Still** (6-6, 260), who earned state Player-of-the-Year honors in Delaware.

Others expected to contribute in the near future include defensive back **Chaz Powell** (6-1, 190), tight end **Jon Ditto** (6-4, 230), wide receiver **Derek Moye** (6-5, 200) and athlete **Nick Sukay** (6-2, 200) from Pennsylvania; defensive end **Kevion Latham** (6-3, 240) of North Carolina; and offensive lineman **J.B. Walton Jr.** (6-4, 295) from New York.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	PSU	OPP
SCORING	290	187
Points Per Game	22.3	14.4
FIRST DOWNS	243	204
Rushing	106	73
Passing	121	122
Penalty	16	9
RUSHING YARDAGE	1950	1137
Yards gained rushing	2323	1531
Yards lost rushing	373	394
Rushing Attempts	457	400
Average Per Rush	4.3	2.8
Average Per Game	150.0	87.5
TDs Rushing	16	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2599	2561
Att-Comp-Int	424-226-	440-244-13
Average Per Pass	6.1	5.8
Average Per Catch	11.5	10.5
Average Per Game	199.9	197.0
TDs Passing	12	10
TOTAL OFFENSE	4549	3698
Total Plays	881	840
Average Per Play	5.2	4.4
Average Per Game	349.9	284.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	32-678	37-679
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-369	24-107
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-136	9-174
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.2	18.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.2	4.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.5	19.3
FUMBLES-LOST	26-15	23-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	58-437	72-565
Average Per Game	33.6	43.5
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2585	82-3161
Average Per Punt	41.7	38.5
Net punt average	36.4	32.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:28	30:30
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/186	61/190
3rd-Down Pct	38%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6/18	11/23
4th-Down Pct	33%	48%
SACKS BY-YARDS	40-279	23-194
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	32	21
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	22-34	14-19
PAT-ATTEMPTS	30-31 97%	19-21 90%
ATTENDANCE	752972	371090
Games/Avg Per Game	7/107567	5/74218
Neutral Site Games		1/65601

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Penn State	50	83	68	82	7	290
Opponents	29	60	40	52	6	187

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Anthony Morelli						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	111.9	386-208-8	53.9	2424	11	186.5

Daryll Clark						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	146.60	27-14-0	51.9	116	0	16.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tony Hunt	13	277	1386	5.0	11	106.6
Rodney Kinlaw	13	39	199	5.1	0	15.3
A.J. Wallace	13	8	153	19.1	1	11.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Deon Butler	13	48	637	13.3	2	49.0
Jordan Norwood	13	45	472	10.5	2	36.3
Derrick Williams	13	40	440	11.0	1	33.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Paul Posluszny	13	69	47	116
Dan Connor	13	70	43	113
Sean Lee	13	47	43	90

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Jay Alford	13	8.0	43
Tim Shaw	13	7.0	48
Sean Lee	13	5.5	46

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Anthony Scirrotto	6	122	20.3	0
Dan Connor	2	3	1.5	0
Justin King	1	0	0	0

TOP 25 SELECTION

#4 OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 12-1 » **Big Ten: 8-0** *(lost to Florida in the BCS National Championship Game, 41-14)*

Columbus **Stadium:** Ohio Stadium (101,568) **Tickets:** 800-GO-BUCKS

RT » Kirk Barton

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COATCHING	5

Massive losses on offense will have Tressel's Buckeyes relying on 'D' more than usual

Just when we were set to say that The Ohio State University was the premier program of a young century, its coronation was canceled—or at least postponed indefinitely.

The final score of the 2007 BCS Championship Game, in case you missed it (as the Buckeyes did): Florida 41, Ohio State 14. That horrible noise you heard was one last shriek from the banks of the Olentangy.

And to think what might have been. In less than six seasons, Coach Jim Tressel had reached near-deity status. He is half "Woody" and half "goody-goody." And almost as good as a BCS championship in January 2003, the Buckeyes have five wins over Michigan in six tries under Tressel. Seldom had so many prayers been answered in one state.

Thus, one can imagine the shock in Ohio when we all were reminded of the difference between "unbeaten" and "unbeatable." No one could have guessed that when Buckeye blur Ted Ginn Jr. returned the opening kickoff for a 7-0 lead. The Gators ruled the rest of the game 41-7.

Don't expect any team to score 41 against OSU this year. Though Michigan and Florida combined for 83 in the Buckeyes' last two games, no other foe in 2006 got more than 17. And nine teams were held to 10 or less. That could be the case again with five defenders who range from starter to star.

Let's start with junior linebacker James Laurinaitis, who answered the question, "Is there life after A.J. Hawk?" with the answer, "Sure, with a Nagurski Award winner as the nation's top defender." Laurinaitis made 115 stops and was arguably the season's biggest surprise.

He should have plenty of help from junior lineman Vernon Gholston, a second-team All-Big Ten choice, and junior cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, a first-team all-conference pick. Gholston led OSU with 8.5 sacks and 15 tackles for loss last season, while Jenkins averaged 24.8 yards on four interceptions, one shy of Laurinaitis' total.

Junior linebacker Marcus Freeman and junior strong safety Jamario O'Neal are back from a unit that allowed a combined 17 points in four games last October. But for the Buckeyes to be a dominant defense, six spots must be filled. And as always in Columbus, there's no shortage of candidates.

Sophomores Todd Denlinger and Doug Worthington are possibilities on the defensive front, where tackles Quinn Pitcock and David Patterson were unsung heroes last year. Senior linebacker Larry Grant was a star in the spring game, replacing John Kerr. Look for sophomore cornerback Donald Washington and junior free safety Nick Patterson to take over for Antonio Smith and Brandon Mitchell, respectively.

However, it's the OSU offense that has everyone wondering how a team can survive the loss of a Heisman quarterback (Troy Smith), a pair of NFL first-round receivers (Ginn Jr. and Anthony Gonzalez), a 1,000-plus-yard rusher (Antonio Pittman) and two first-team All-Big Ten blockers (center Doug Datish and guard T.J. Downing).

The answer is simple. It can't. No team in Big Ten history has lost more of its attack at once. But if the Buckeyes don't average 34.6 points per game as they did last season, it's not the end of the program. If the offense protects the ball, 24 points per game might be

» **Head Coach: Jim Tressel**
7th year (62-14) **Career Record:** 62-14 (Division I-A)

Official athletic Web site: www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Youngstown State**	
S. 8	**Akron**	
S. 15	@WASHINGTON	
S. 22	**Northwestern**	54-10
S. 29	@MINNESOTA	44-0
O. 6	@PURDUE	
O. 13	**Kent State**	
O. 20	**Michigan State**	38-7
O. 27	@PENN STATE	28-6
N. 3	**Wisconsin**	
N. 10	**Illinois**	17-10
N. 17	» @MICHIGAN	42-39

» GAME TO WATCH «

Coach Jim Tressel is 5-1 against the Wolverines and 2-1 in Ann Arbor. This year should be much tougher.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	12	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2005	10	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2004	8	BOWL
2003	11	BOWL
2002	14	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE, NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **11**
Lettermen returning/lost: **38/21**

» OFFENSE		
QB	17	Todd Boeckman (6-5, 235, r-Jr.)
TB	28	Chris Wells (6-1, 225, So.)
FB	49	Dionte Johnson (6-0, 234, Sr.)
LT	75	Alex Boone (6-8, 325, Jr.)
LG	71	Steve Rehring (6-8, 329, r-Jr.)
C	64	Jim Cordle (6-4, 280, r-So.)
RG	63	Ben Person (6-4, 315, r-Jr.)
RT	74	Kirk Barton (6-6, 310, r-Sr.)
TE	88	Rory Nicol (6-5, 250, r-Jr.)
SE	80	Brian Robiskie (6-3, 195, Jr.)
FL	4	Ray Small (6-0, 175, So.)
» DEFENSE		
DE	87	Lawrence Wilson (6-6, 270, Jr.)
DT	92	Todd Denlinger (6-3, 280, r-So.)
DT	84	Doug Worthington (6-7, 274, r-So.)
DE	50	Vernon Gholston (6-4, 260, r-Jr.)
SLB	6	Larry Grant (6-3, 225, Sr.)
MLB	33	James Laurinaitis (6-3, 244, Jr.)
WLB	1	Marcus Freeman (6-2, 242, r-Jr.)
LCB	2	Malcolm Jenkins (6-1, 202, Jr.)
RCB	20	Donald Washington (6-1, 195, r-So.)
FS	23	Nick Patterson (6-2, 210, r-Jr.)
SS	3	Jamario O'Neal (6-1, 200, Jr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	20	Aaron Pettrey (6-1, 195, r-So.)
P	15	A.J. Trapasso (6-1, 220, r-Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

PAUL JASIENSKI

THE NEXT BIG THING

CHRIS WELLS, RB

The sophomore nicknamed "Beanie" is much bigger than Antonio Pittman. And he should make a transition season easier for spoiled fans to swallow.

enough to make the conference's top half and a decent bowl game.

The reconstruction starts with three returning linemen. Fifth-year tackle Kirk Barton (6-6, 310) could improve after a second-team all-conference selection last year. And the left side should be fine with massive Steve Rehring (6-8, 329) and tackle Alex Boone (6-8, 325), both juniors. If sophomore center Jim Cordle (6-4, 280) and junior right guard Ben Person (6-4, 315) deliver, the Buckeyes could be better than expected at the skill positions.

Of course, that all depends on capable quarterback play. Junior Todd Boeckman has waited four years for his opportunity. His first goal should be to keep redshirt freshman Antonio Henton and sophomore Rob Schoenhoft on the bench until mop-up time.

OSU should be fine at tailback. All's Wells that ends well, as sophomore Chris Wells (6-1, 225) and junior Maurice Wells (5-10, 190) plan to prove. Chris rushed for 576 yards, a 5.5-yard average and seven scores as Pittman's backup last year and was much more than a short-yardage specialist. Maurice, no relation, added 171 yards in spot duty but is slippery enough to share carries behind senior fullback Dionte Johnson (6-0, 234), a bruising blocker.

Junior Rory Nicol is back at tight end, where he caught 13 balls for 151 yards and three TDs in 2006. And junior split end Brian Robiskie should double his 29 grabs for 383 yards and five scores. Sophomores Brian Hartline and Ray Small will also see the ball more.

Tressel knows the importance of special teams. If he ever forgets it, all that has to be done is pop in a highlight video of Ginn. But the kicking should be fine with sophomore Aaron Pettrey handling extra points and field goals of all distances and junior A.J. Trapasso improving on a 40.6-yard punting average.

Gone is the old grass field in Ohio Stadium, with FieldTurf installed in April. The players who left and their greatness won't be as easy to replace.

RECRUITING REPORT

The headliners of the Buckeyes' class are two members of last year's *Street & Smith's* High School All-America Top 50—running back **Brandon Saine** and defensive back **Eugene Clifford**.

The two in-state prospects lived up to their preseason billing. Saine (6-1, 205), from Piqua, was selected Ohio's Mr. Football, while Clifford (6-2, 190) of Colerain High in Cincinnati was a first-team All-State pick.

Saine, also a standout sprinter in track, displayed his inside-running toughness and pass-catching skills enough for the Buckeyes to consider using him in a number of ways.

He led Piqua to a Division 2 state title with 2,242 rushing yards and 31 rushing touchdowns last season.

Clifford charted 105 tackles and returned three of his pass interceptions for touchdowns last season.

As usual, Ohio State concentrated on top in-state prospects and signed 10 Ohioans among its small class of 15 newcomers.

Other in-state recruits who could get serious early looks include wide receiver/safety **Dane Sanzenbacher** (5-11, 175); safeties **Nate Oliver** (6-0, 195), **Rocco Pentello** (6-0, 195) and **Devon Torrence** (6-1, 190); cornerback **Donnie Evege** (5-11, 185); linebacker **Jermale Hines** (6-2, 205); and defensive end **Solomon Thomas** (6-5, 225).

The only offensive lineman is Pennsylvania product **Evan Blankenship** (6-3, 300), who impressed at the Buckeyes' summer camp.

It was a small class for the Buckeyes, but many of their recruits were multiple-sport performers in high school, so it's a versatile, athletic group.

—Doug Huff

JOE ROBBINS

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OHIO STATE	OPP
SCORING	450	166
Points Per Game	34.6	12.8
FIRST DOWNS	261	202
Rushing	117	69
Passing	135	118
Penalty	9	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2208	1278
Yards gained rushing	2442	1657
Yards lost rushing	234	379
Rushing Attempts	480	384
Average Per Rush	4.6	3.3
Average Per Game	169.8	98.3
TDs Rushing	25	9
PASSING YARDAGE	2791	2368
Att-Comp-Int	340-221-6	415-242-21
Average Per Pass	8.2	5.7
Average Per Catch	12.6	9.8
Average Per Game	214.7	182.2
TDs Passing	31	10
TOTAL OFFENSE	4999	3646
Total Plays	820	799
Average Per Play	6.1	4.6
Average Per Game	384.5	280.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	30-651	42-774
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	30-306	15-119
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	21-342	6-0
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.7	18.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.2	7.9
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.3	0.0
FUMBLES-LOST	18-12	19-6
PENALTIES-YARDS	62-564	49-387
Average Per Game	43.4	29.8
PUNTS-YARDS	49-1990	77-2981
Average Per Punt	40.6	38.7
Net punt average	36.6	32.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:56	29:04
3RD-DOWN CONV.	78/159	58/176
3rd-Down Pct	49%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/11	10/17
4th-Down Pct	64%	59%
SACKS BY-YARDS	38-278	19-146
MISC YARDS	14	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	61	19
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-13	11-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	57-60	17-17
ATTENDANCE	735674	333986
Games/Avg Per Game	7/105096	5/66797
Neutral Site Games		1/74628

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Ohio State	118	140	75	117	450
Opponents	34	57	20	55	166

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Troy Smith	13	161.91	203-311-6	65.3	2542	30	195.5
Justin Zwick	7	129.17	14-23-0	60.9	187	0	26.7
Todd Boeckman	3	119.87	2-3-0	66.7	19	0	6.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Antonio Pittman	13	242	1233	5.1	14	94.8
Chris Wells	13	104	576	5.5	7	44.3
Troy Smith	13	72	204	2.8	1	15.7

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Ted Ginn Jr.	13	59	781	13.2	9	60.1
Anthony Gonzalez	13	51	734	14.4	8	56.5
Brian Robiskie	13	29	383	13.2	5	29.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
James Laurinaitis	13	53	62	115
Marcus Freeman	13	34	37	71
Antonio Smith	13	40	31	71

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Vernon Gholston	13	8.5	73
Quinn Pitcock	12	8.0	42
James Laurinaitis	13	4.0	40

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
James Laurinaitis	5	56	11.2	0
Malcolm Jenkins	4	99	24.8	1
Antonio Smith	2	63	31.5	1

#5 PRESEASON RANK

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

2006 Record: 8-6 » **Big Ten: 5-3** *(lost to Maryland in the Champs Sports Bowl, 24-7)*

West Lafayette, Ind. **Stadium:** Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500) **Tickets:** 800-497-7678

With 20 starters back, Boilers could be dark-horse choice

A little more than a decade ago, things weren't just bad in West Lafayette, Ind. They were so putrid that a once-proud program had become a Big Ten P.H.O.—a perfect Homecoming opponent.

In 12 seasons from 1985-96, Purdue had engineered exactly one winning season. Or to put it another way, the Boilermakers hadn't played in a bowl game in three presidential terms—Ronald Reagan's second and the firsts of George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Enter the old fly fisherman himself, Joe Tiller. Since he was hired as Purdue's head coach on Nov. 22, 1996, Tiller has taken nine of his 10 teams to postseason play, including a Rose Bowl appearance in Year Four. And the change from chumps to champs wasn't just fast. It was tons of fun for anyone in Old Gold and Black.

Last season was one of the most enjoyable rides. Coming off a huge disappointment and Tiller's only non-bowl season in 2005, Purdue was relegated to the conference's lower half by critics who forgot one critical thing—what often happens to good programs after bad seasons.

The Boilermakers reminded us all of that fact by going 5-3 in conference play and 8-6 overall. Though the party ended with a 24-7 loss to Maryland in the Champs Sports Bowl, Tiller fooled a lot of prognosticators again, the same way he did the day he was introduced.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **ANTHONY HEYGOOD, LB**
Heygood has switched from running back to run-stuffer as well as anyone could have hoped. Joe Tiller sees tremendous upside this season in the senior.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Justin Siller, QB, 6-3, 190**
Versatile pass-run athlete could play soon.
2. **Preston Numa, DL, 6-2, 275**
Louisiana product has potential.
3. **Terrell Vinson, DB, 6-1, 185**
Junior-college transfer in immediate plans.
4. **Jared Crank, RB, 6-2, 240**
Big back recruited out of Texas hotbed.
5. **Dan Dierking, RB, 5-9, 180**
Solid player from strong Illinois prep program.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

A finish among the Big Ten's leaders won't shock anyone this year, not with 20 starters returning. Purdue and Michigan should have the Big Ten's two best offenses. But if the Boilermakers play decent defense and the special teams are OK, a January date looms likely. This could be a special season.

Purdue got a major break last fall by not having to face Ohio State or Michigan. It gets another boost this year with Wisconsin off the slate. And don't be surprised if the Buckeyes suffer more than the Boilermakers do from an Oct. 6 game in Ross-Ade Stadium.

The main reason for Purdue's optimism is the return of senior quarterback Curtis Painter, who led the Big Ten in passing yards last season with 284.6 per game and in total offense with a 292.3-yard average—81.1 more than Ohio State's Troy Smith and 105.8 more than Michigan's Chad Henne. Remember those numbers the next time someone says, "Curtis who?"

Painter can be the Big Ten's MVP if he cuts last year's league-high 19 interceptions to nine. His 59.4-percent accuracy was good enough, and 3,985 yards through the air set a Big Ten season record, breaking the mark of Boilermakers great Drew Brees by two yards.

It's scary to think where Painter's numbers could be in two years. If he stays coachable and confident, there's no reason to think Painter won't be a strong candidate for national honors—even in a program that has never produced a Heisman winner. He plays with a champion's swagger and knows what to do for his team. Now, Painter just has to learn what he can't do.

Painter's favorite brushstroke is a throw to slick senior Dorien Bryant, one of the best receivers in the nation. Bryant has long been a bear for cornerbacks and safeties to cover. He led the conference in catches per game for the second straight year and finished with 87 receptions, 23 more than anyone else in the league. Bryant's grabs netted 1,068 yards, 287 more than the Ohio State's Ted Ginn Jr. and 334 more than Ginn's teammate, Anthony Gonzalez.

Purdue has nine of 11 starters back on defense, which should help a troubled unit that ranked last in the league last season.

» **Head Coach: Joe Tiller**
11th year (75-49) **Career Record:** 114-79-1

Official athletic Web site: www. purduesports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@TOLEDO	
S. 8	**Eastern Illinois**	
S. 15	**Central Michigan**	
S. 22	@MINNESOTA	27-21
S. 29	**Notre Dame**	21-35
O. 6	**Ohio State**	
O. 13	@MICHIGAN	
O. 20	**Iowa**	17-47
O. 27	**Northwestern**	31-10
N. 3	» **@PENN STATE**	0-12
N. 10	**Michigan State**	17-15
N. 17	@INDIANA	28-19

» GAME TO WATCH «

To be a serious threat, the Boilermakers will have to win a difficult road game. This would qualify.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2005	5	
2004	7	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2003	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2002	7	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **20**
Lettermen returning/lost: **54/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Curtis Painter (6-4, 223, Sr.)
RB	33	Jaycen Taylor (5-10, 186, Jr.)
LT	51	Garret Miller (6-8, 275, Sr.)
LG	50	Eric Hedstrom (6-6, 303, Jr.)
C	68	Robbie Powell (6-5, 307, r-Sr.)
RG	66	Jordan Grimes (6-3, 325, Sr.)
RT	74	Sean Sester (6-7, 325, Sr.)
TE	28	Dustin Keller (6-4, 240, r-Sr.)
WR	1	Selwyn Lymon (6-4, 215, Jr.)
WR	9	Dorien Bryant (5-10, 175, Sr.)
WR	21	Greg Orton (6-3, 199, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	32	Cliff Avril (6-3, 251, Sr.)
DT	92	Mike Neal (6-4, 293, Jr.)
DT	71	Alex Magee (6-4, 295, Jr.)
DE	87	Mike McDonald (6-2, 250, Sr.)
WLB	59	Stanford Keglar (6-2, 247, r-Sr.)
MLB	36	Dan Bick (6-1, 225, Sr.)
SLB	42	Anthony Heygood (6-2, 230, Sr.)
CB	10	Royce Adams (6-0, 183, So.)
CB	34	Terrell Vinson (5-9, 180, Sr.)
FS	20	Brandon Erwin (6-0, 188, So.)
SS	23	Justin Scott (6-0, 209, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Chris Summers (6-1, 185, So.)
P	11	Jared Armstrong (6-3, 234, r-Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

IOWA HAWKEYES

2006 Record: 6-7 » **Big Ten:** 2-6 *(lost to Texas in the Alamo Bowl, 26-24)*

Stadium: Kinnick Stadium (70,585) **Tickets:** 800-424-2957 **Iowa City**

« # 6
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Kirk Ferentz**
9th year (55-43) **Career Record:** 67-64

Official athletic Web site: www.hawkeyesports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

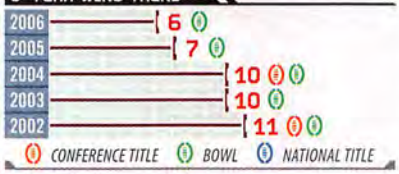
DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@NO. ILLINOIS*	24-14
S. 8	**Syracuse**	20-13 (OT)
S. 15	@IOWA STATE	27-17
S.22	» @WISCONSIN	21-24
S. 29	**Indiana**	28-31
O. 6	@PENN STATE	
O. 13	**Illinois**	24-7
O. 20	@PURDUE	47-17
O. 27	**Michigan State**	
N. 3	@NORTHWESTERN	7-21
N. 10	**Minnesota**	24-34
N. 17	**Western Michigan**	

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

With Michigan and Ohio State off the slate, a win in Madison could give the Hawkeyes a huge boost.

** at Chicago, IL*

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **37/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	6	Jake Christensen (6-1, 205, So.)
FB	35	Tom Busch (5-11, 231, Sr.)
RB	21	Albert Young (5-10, 209, Sr.)
LT	78	Dace Richardson (6-6, 306, Jr.)
LG	68	Andy Kuempel (6-7, 295, So.)
C	52	Rafael Eubanks (6-3, 288, So.)
RG	75	Wesley Aeschliman (6-8, 315, Jr.)
RT	71	Seth Olsen (6-5, 301, Jr.)
TE	81	Tony Moeaki (6-4, 250, Jr.)
SE	80	Andy Brodell (6-3, 193, Jr.)
WR	88	Dominique Douglas (6-1, 186, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	92	Kenny Iwebema (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	53	Matt Kroul (6-3, 271, Jr.)
DT	47	Mitch King (6-3, 264, Jr.)
DE	99	Bryan Mattison (6-3, 272, Sr.)
SLB	49	A.J. Edds (6-4, 224, So.)
MLB	40	Mike Klinkenborg (6-2, 240, Sr.)
WLB	44	Mike Humpal (6-2, 232, Sr.)
LCB	19	Adam Shada (6-1, 185, Sr.)
RCB	13	Charles Godfrey (6-1, 208, Sr.)
FS	30	Brett Greenwood (6-0, 185, r-Fr.)
SS	11	Marcus Wilson (6-3, 198, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	12	Austin Signor (6-4, 230, So.)
P	5	Ryan Donahue (6-3, 180, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

Hawkeyes look to bounce back from second-half '06 free-fall

There was a time when any bowl appearance, let alone the sixth in a row, would have been saluted in Iowa City. And we're not just talking about two decades of football hell B.F. (Before Fry). When Kirk Ferentz took over for Hayden following the 1998 season and debuted with a 1-10 mark, some wondered how the Hawkeyes ever played in three Rose Bowls during the span of 10 years.

Ferentz knew the answer to that question as a former Fry assistant. With a reconstruction matched only by Fry and Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez in the past 30 years, Iowa rose to the top again and had three seasons with double-digit wins in the span of four years. If you think that's easy, consider that Michigan State, a school with multiple national titles, has had exactly two seasons with 10 or more wins in its history.

Thus, it had to be a serious downer when a team with a charismatic senior quarterback, one that was supposed to play in January, finished 6-7 with a 26-24 loss to Texas in the Alamo Bowl. Much worse, the Hawkeyes dropped their last five league games and tied for eighth in the conference with a 2-6 record.

Iowa started 5-1, losing only to top-ranked Ohio State in a battle of the 'eyes. But after a 47-17 win over Purdue on Oct. 7, the Hawkeyes won just one more game—a 24-14 non-league decision over Northern Illinois. Three of those setbacks were by three points or less and none by more than two touchdowns. Still, it wasn't the way resourceful leader Drew Tate and nine other regulars planned to go out.

The good news is that 14 starters return in 2007, including standout linebacker Mike Klinkenborg, the Big Ten's No. 2 tackler (129 stops in 12 games), plus seven other defenders. The other plus—at least it would be in most years—is that Michigan and OSU are off the Iowa schedule in 2007 and 2008.

But let's start with the biggest question, the quarterback position, which won't be filled by Tate for the first time in four years. Sophomore Jake Christensen is the only returnee with any collegiate game experience. He started the Northern Illinois game, and was 23-for-35 for 285 yards and two touchdowns in five appearances. If Christensen struggles, redshirt freshmen Arvell Nelson and Richard Stanzi are waiting for their chance.

Though massive tight end Scott Chandler and his 46 catches will be missed, the Hawkeyes return both starting wideouts in sophomore Dominique Douglas and junior Andy Brodell. Douglas led the nation's true freshmen last year with 49 catches and was second with 654 receiving yards. Brodell had 39 grabs for 724 yards and an 18.6-yard average. He had six catches for 159 yards and two scores in the Alamo Bowl.

The running backs are another perceived strength, and it's hard to see how that wouldn't be the case. Seniors Albert Young and Damian Sims combined to rush for 1,443 yards and 13 TDs last season. And senior fullback Tom Busch does all the heavy lifting.

Battling injuries for much of the year, Young still netted 779 yards and seven scores on the ground, giving him 2,205 career yards. He also caught 30 passes for 225 yards. Sims provided an excellent change of pace and rushed for 664 yards, a 5.0 average and six TDs. Meanwhile, Busch stretched his string of consecutive starts to 26.

The offensive line needs three new starters, not counting a tight end.

The defensive line returns intact, though position coach Ron Aiken has moved to the NFL.

Klinkenborg, an Academic All-American with a 3.96 GPA, and steady senior Mike Humpal are one of the league's best sets of linebackers.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» JAKE CHRISTENSEN, QB
This sophomore won't erase the memory of Drew Tate. He should play solid football, however, and help ease the pain from a disappointing 2006 season.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Jordan Bernstine, DB, 5-10, 200**
   Prep All-American was top in-state prospect.
2. **Bryan Bulaga, OL, 6-5, 275**
   Illinois product comes highly touted.
3. **Marvin McNutt, QB, 6-3, 180**
   Rangy signal-caller from Missouri.
4. **Christian Ballard, TE/OL, 6-5, 280**
   Massive blocker has great potential.
5. **Jevon Pugh, RB, 5-10, 210**
   Florida prep was late Hawkeye catch.

#7 MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 4-8 » Big Ten: 1-7

East Lansing **Stadium:** Spartan Stadium (75,005) **Tickets:** 800-GO-STATE

Tough, low-key Dantonio may be cure for what ails Spartans

The season always lasted a little too long for John L. Smith in East Lansing. But last year's 4-8 free-fall should have ended after the third quarter of the fourth game. In many ways it did, since the Spartans never recovered from a 40-37 giveaway to Notre Dame on Sept. 23, a surreal slap in the face on a dark, stormy night.

Thus, Smith is living back in Louisville and enjoying life much more than he ever did last fall. And the Spartans have a new head coach, actually an old assistant, in ex-Cincinnati leader Mark Dantonio. The former aide to Nick Saban at MSU and Jim Tressel at Ohio State is as solid as Smith was squirrelly.

In three seasons with the Bearcats, Dantonio led a downtrodden program to three bowls. His team was 7-5 last year and 4-3 in the Big East, including a 30-11 win over No. 7 Rutgers, the highest-ranked team Cincinnati had ever beaten.

Meanwhile, the Spartans dropped eight of their last nine games and tied for 10th at 1-7 in the conference, thanks only to the biggest comeback in NCAA history, a rally from 35 down to win 41-38 at Northwestern. MSU lost by 25 the following week at Indiana, proving that momentum is never automatic.

The Spartans will welcome 13 starters back, six on each side of the ball plus a standout placekicker. But the player they built the program around the past three years, swashbuckling quarterback Drew Stanton, was a second-round pick of the Detroit Lions. At least he'll know how to handle adversity.

The new No. 1 quarterback is junior Brian Hoyer, a capable passer who should fit well in Dantonio's more conventional offense. While Stanton was hurt, Hoyer completed 82 of 144 passes (56.9 percent) for 863 yards and four touchdowns with three interceptions.

The running game should be good with junior Javon Ringer healthy again after a severe knee sprain last year. When at full speed, Ringer is as shifty as they come and a perfect complement to fifth-year bruiser Jehuu Caulcrick.

The running game should find some holes with a fullback in front of them for the first time and four starters returning on the offensive line, plus a big tight end. Tackle Mike Gyetvai and guard Pete Clifford are back on the left side as fifth-year seniors. Guard Roland Martin and tackle Jesse Miller should be better as juniors. And new starting center John Masters will have to come through in his fifth season.

Senior tight end Kellen Davis is a future pro or a problem, depending on the week or the quarter. But gone is the threesome of Kerry Reed, Matt Trannon and Jerramy Scott, who combined for 376 catches at wide receiver in 2006. Sophomore T.J. Williams could be the go-to target, though fifth-year senior Terry Love has the most experience.

The defense is less predictable, especially up front. Senior end Ervin Baldwin is capable of rushing the passer, but disappears for long stretches. Junior Justin Kershaw might be more comfortable as an undersized tackle than a step-slow end. Also in the mix at tackle are senior Ogemdi Nwagbuo, sophomore John Stipek and heralded freshman Antonio Jeremiah. The opposite end could be junior Brandon Long or fifth-year senior Jonal Saint-Dic, though junior-college transfer Michael Jordan could emerge.

Third-year starter Kaleb Thornhill is back for a fifth year at middle linebacker. Junior free safety Otis Wiley is probably the team's best player. But when anyone at that position leads a team with 94 tackles, something is wrong in front of him.

Brett Swenson solved MSU's placekicking problem from Day One last season and was a Freshman All-American with 15 field goals in 19 tries.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» MICHAEL JORDAN, DE

A sophomore transfer from the Arizona juco ranks, the man nicknamed "Player" may help the Spartans pursue passers as they haven't done in several years.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Antonio Jeremiah, DL, 6-4, 280**
   Ohio product could contribute soon.
2. **Kirk Cousins, QB, 6-2, 175**
   In-state recruit could be sleeper.
3. **Mark Dell, WR, 6-1, 180**
   Late recruit from top in-state program.
4. **Ashton Leggett, RB, 5-11, 225**
   One of two recruits from Michigan state champ.
5. **Michael Jordan, DE, 6-6, 285**
   Transfer from Arizona junior-college ranks is real deal.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Mark Dantonio,** 1st year
Career Record: 18-17

Official athletic Web site: www.msuspartans.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**UAB**	
S. 8	**Bowling Green**	
S. 15	**Pittsburgh**	38-23
S. 22	@NOTRE DAME	37-40
S. 29	@WISCONSIN	
O. 6	**Northwestern**	41-38
O. 13	**Indiana**	21-46
O. 20	@OHIO STATE	7-38
O. 27	@IOWA	
N. 3	» MICHIGAN	13-31
N. 10	@PURDUE	15-17
N. 17	**Penn State**	13-17

GAME TO WATCH

New Spartans Coach Mark Dantonio has seen former bosses Nick Saban and Jim Tressel upsetting the Wolverines in their respective debuts with Michigan State and Ohio State.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4	
2005	5	
2004	5	
2003	8	C, B
2002	4	

C CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL N NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **54/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Brian Hoyer (6-2, 212, Jr.)
FB	49	Dwayne Holmes (6-0, 275, Jr.)
RB	23	Javon Ringer (5-9, 202, Jr.)
LT	66	Mike Gyetvai (6-7, 307, Sr.)
LG	75	Pete Clifford (6-7, 316, Sr.)
C	54	John Masters (6-4, 285, Sr.)
RG	73	Roland Martin (6-5, 325, Jr.)
RT	79	Jesse Miller (6-6, 307, Jr.)
TE	80	Kellen Davis (6-6, 254, Sr.)
WR	12	T.J. Williams (6-3, 184, So.)
WR	18	Terry Love (5-11, 173, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	47	Brandon Long (6-4, 245, Jr.)
DT	97	Justin Kershaw (6-4, 260, Jr.)
NT	99	Ogemdi Nwagbuo (6-4, 290, Sr.)
DE	51	Ervin Baldwin (6-2, 270, Sr.)
OLB	27	SirDarean Adams (6-0, 230, Sr.)
MLB	41	Kaleb Thornhill (6-1, 240, Sr.)
OLB	45	Andrew Hawken (6-2, 235, So.)
CB	38	Kendell Davis-Clark (5-11, 199, Jr.)
CB	37	Ross Weaver (6-1, 202, So.)
FS	21	Otis Wiley (6-2, 210, Jr.)
SS	3	Nehemiah Warrick (6-1, 200, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	14	Brett Swenson (5-8, 160, So.)
P	18	Aaron Bates (6-0, 190, Fr.)

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

2006 Record: 4-8 » Big Ten: 2-6

Stadium: Ryan Field (47,130) Tickets: 847-491-2287 Evanston, Ill.

» Head Coach: Pat Fitzgerald
2nd year (4-8) Career Record: 4-8

Official athletic Web site: www.nusports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

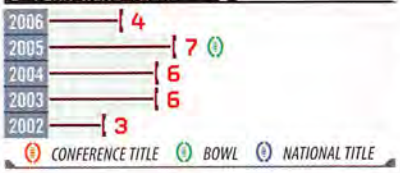
DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	Northeastern	
S. 8	Nevada	21-31
S. 15	Duke	
S. 22	@OHIO STATE	10-54
S. 29	Michigan	3-17
O. 6	» @MICHIGAN STATE	38-41
O. 13	Minnesota	
O. 19	@EASTERN MICH.*	14-6
O. 27	@PURDUE	10-31
N. 3	Iowa	21-7
N. 10	Indiana	
N. 17	@ILLINOIS	27-16

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

After blowing a 35-point lead to the Spartans in 2006, the Wildcats have lots to prove.

** at Detroit, MI*

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **40/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	18	C.J. Bachér (6-2, 200, Jr.)
RB	19	Tyrell Sutton (5-9, 190, Jr.)
LT	74	Dylan Thiry (6-8, 315, Sr.)
LG	77	Adam Crum (6-1, 285, Sr.)
C	50	Trevor Rees (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RG	52	Joel Belding (6-3, 300, Jr.)
RT	78	Kurt Mattes (6-6, 290, So.)
TE/FB	44	Mark Woodsum (6-0, 240, So.)
WR	12	Andrew Brewer (6-3, 210, So.)
WR	9	Ross Lane (6-3, 190, Jr.)
WR	8	Rasheed Ward (5-11, 180, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	99	Corey Wootton (6-7, 275, So.)
DT	70	John Gill (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	79	Adam Hahn (6-4, 295, So.)
DE	91	Mark Koehn (6-3, 265, Sr.)
WLB	31	Mike Dinard (6-2, 235, Jr.)
MLB	43	Adam Kadela (6-3, 240, Sr.)
SLB	40	Eddie Simpson (6-1, 230, Sr.)
CB	24	Sherrick McManis (6-0, 180, So.)
CB	22	Deante Battle (5-10, 180, Sr.)
FS	27	Reggie McPherson (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SS	39	Brendan Smith (6-0, 210, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	1	Stefan Demos (5-10, 190, r-Fr.)
P	1	Stefan Demos (5-10, 190, r-Fr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

Wildcats on schedule to make potential jump to .500 in '07

If anyone knows how to win football games in Evanston, Ill., it's Pat Fitzgerald, by far the nation's youngest head coach at a mature 32. As a Wildcat player, the former All-America linebacker and two-time winner of the Bronco Nagurski and Chuck Bednarik Awards led Northwestern to the first two of its three Big Ten titles between 1995-2000, a time when even one championship seemed impossible.

Now, Fitzgerald has to transfer that leadership and intelligence off the field. Many believe it's only a matter of time before he does that as well as anyone the Wildcats could have hired after Randy Walker died of a heart attack on June 29, 2006.

Fitzgerald's first year as the boss on the sideline, after five as a trusted assistant to Walker, was a tale of three seasons. Northwestern had a 2-1 start, then dropped six in a row and finished up by winning two of its final three games, including a 21-7 shocker at Iowa. Call that adventure "The Good, the Bad and the Uplifting."

No one at Ryan Field will ever forget the Wildcats' collapse with a five-touchdown lead in a historic Oct. 21 loss to Michigan State. But the next week's scare of mighty Michigan during a 17-3 loss in Ann Arbor is proof of the players' and staff's resiliency and should be remembered just as long.

With steady improvement and some luck staying healthy, Northwestern could crack the Big Ten's upper tier this fall. Seven regulars return on offense, including juniors Tyrell Sutton at running back and C.J. Bachér at quarterback. Eight more starters are back on defense. And the Wildcats have conference-title contenders Wisconsin and Penn State right where they want them—off the schedule.

Northwestern's best shot to contend for the near future will be in two years, when every skill position player in the 2007 starting lineup will be back. Bachér and Sutton should be primed for their fourth seasons of play, with the latter possibly closing in on every Wildcats rushing record.

In one of the best debuts in conference history, Sutton rushed for 1,474 yards two years ago. That makes last season's 1,000 yards seem almost puny by comparison. But don't be fooled. Sutton only carried the ball 189 times, averaged 5.3 yards per try and also caught 34 passes. That means he's on pace to rush for 4,948 yards, catch 168 passes and score 50 touchdowns in his career.

Bachér completed 95 of 161 passes (59.0 percent) for 1,172 yards and six TDs in six games last season. His biggest problem was staying healthy and protecting the football, as seen by eight interceptions. If he fixes that problem, Bachér can be known as Fitzgerald's first outstanding quarterback. If not, he'll feel the heat from sophomore Mike Kafka, a pass/run threat, and redshirt freshman Joe Mauro. Neither came to school with the intention of holding a clipboard.

The receiving corps will miss Shawn Herbert's 47 catches. But juniors Ross Lane, Eric Peterman and Rasheed Ward combined for 75 catches last year. And sophomore Andrew Brewer, who started some at quarterback in 2006, could be a key receiver and special teams player.

Three starters are back on the offensive line: left tackle Dylan Thiry, junior guard Joel Belding and senior center Trevor Rees. The top candidates for the other spots are senior left guard Adam Crum and sophomore right tackle Kurt Mattes.

The strength of Northwestern's defense should be up front. However, the Wildcats still have questions at linebacker. And, no, Fitzgerald doesn't have eligibility left. Senior Adam Kadela will have to provide leadership in the middle. The secondary includes seniors Deante Battle at cornerback and Reggie McPherson at free safety.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» ANDREW BREWER, WR/KR
A sophomore who started four games at quarterback last year, Brewer has enough size and speed to be an all-purpose threat.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Jordan Mabin, DB/RB, 5-10, 180**
Ohio product could see early action.
2. **Vincent Brown, DE, 6-5, 245**
Pass-rusher supreme is recovering from a knee injury.
3. **Scott Concannon, RB, 5-10, 190**
Missouri prospect could be big surprise.
4. **Cameron Joplin, TE, 6-4, 255**
Could also play on the Wildcats' offensive line.
5. **Bryce McNaul, LB, 6-2, 240**
Played at top Minnesota prep program.

#9 INDIANA HOOSIERS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 5-7 » Big Ten: 3-5

Bloomington Stadium: Memorial Stadium (52,180) Tickets: 812-855-4006

Hoeppner has put the 'hope' back in Hoosier football

To go from where Indiana football was (or more often wasn't) to where the program aspired to be demanded an instant infusion of leadership. Next, it required a supreme commitment by all concerned parties, from the administration to the head coach to his staff to the players and, yes, even to some long-suffering fans.

The Hoosiers took step one when they hired Terry Hoeppner from Miami (Ohio) to make the program as good as it could be. See: Mallory, Bill, if you don't remember the late 1980s with new College Football Hall of Fame electee Anthony Thompson, the best player Indiana has had.

Hoeppner had surgery in December 2005 for what was described as a possible recurrent brain tumor, and missed two games last season for an additional operation. He had to sit out Indiana's spring drills for what was described as "personal health matters."

Fortunately for Indiana, Hoeppner assembled quite a staff, led by Offensive Coordinator Bill Lynch, the former head coach at Ball State and DePauw. It will be his and the rest of the staff's job to steer the ship until Hoeppner returns.

The waters were fairly smooth last season before three straight losses to Minnesota, Michigan and Purdue left the Hoosiers home for the holidays with a 5-7 overall mark and 3-5 record in Big Ten play. It wasn't the outcome that anyone wanted. But there have been worse seasons in Bloomington.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» MARCUS THIGPEN, RB

The junior isn't a new contributor for the Hoosiers, but he could be a completely new ball-carrier if he uses his breathtaking speed better.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Jeff Boyd, DE, 6-4, 265**
   In-state prospect led state champs.
2. **Teddy Schell, QB, 6-5, 205**
   Rangy Illinois product is Hoosier QB of the future.
3. **Dane Conwell, RB/DB, 6-1, 185**
   Star of unbeaten Pennsylvania state champion.
4. **Keith Burrus, DL/OL, 6-3, 295**
   Junior-college transfer could help now.
5. **Jarrell Drane, DB, 6-1, 170**
   Florida import has skills to play early.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

Clearly, Indiana is headed in the right direction, even if the standings don't always reflect that. Much of the team's improvement came after the identification and development of quarterback Kellen Lewis (6-1, 177). As a redshirt freshman last year, he completed 190 of 346 throws (54.9 percent) for 2,221 yards and 14 touchdowns with seven interceptions. Lewis also led the team in rushing with 441 yards and added five more scores.

The Hoosiers have some outstanding players. They just need more of them. But as long as the offense has a wide receiver like junior James Hardy, who recorded 51 catches for 722 yards and 10 scores in 10 games last year, it has a chance. Hardy was more consistent as a freshman, when he had 61 grabs for 893 yards. But he's fully capable of being the top target in the Big Ten and one of the nation's best wideouts.

Hardy could have help this season from redshirt freshman Terrance Turner, who burst onto the scene with seven catches for 157 yards and two TDs in the spring game. And former starting quarterback Blake Powers is back for a fifth season, this time at tight end.

Also returning at the skill positions are junior wide receiver James Bailey, who was second on the team last season with 40 grabs for 401 yards, and junior running back Marcus Thigpen, second last year with 387 yards rushing and a 3.9-yard average. Expect significant improvement in 2007 from one of the fastest players in the league, if not all of college football.

Optimism lies in the offense designed by Lewis, which should open things up. Indiana has most of the offensive line back, including five players who started at least five games. Senior guard John Sandberg (6-2, 290) and junior tackle Charlie Emerson (6-5, 266) aren't as big as some right sides. But they did each start 11 games last season. Sophomores Pete Saxon (6-6, 310) and Rodger Saffold (6-5, 275) should be much improved at left guard and tackle, respectively.

Indiana also returns eight starters on defense, including three down linemen and all of last year's starting linebackers. The Hoosiers should have one of the better sets of senior cornerbacks with Leslie Majors and Tracy Porter, a second-team All-Big Ten choice last year.

» Head Coach: Terry Hoeppner
3rd year (9-14) Career Record: 57-39

Official athletic Web site: www.iuhoosiers.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	Indiana State	
S. 8	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	39-20
S. 15	Akron	
S.22	» Illinois	34-32
S. 29	@IOWA	31-28
O. 6	Minnesota	26-63
O. 13	@MICHIGAN STATE	46-21
O. 20	Penn State	
O. 27	@WISCONSIN	17-52
N. 3	Ball State	24-23
N. 10	@NORTHWESTERN	
N. 17	Purdue	19-28

» GAME TO WATCH «

A fast start in the Big Ten season is essential. The Hoosiers won't get a better chance to do so than this game.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	5
2005	4
2004	3
2003	2
2002	3

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **42/24**

» OFFENSE

QB	15	Kellen Lewis (6-1, 177, r-So.)
RB	2	Marcus Thigpen (5-9, 190, r-Jr.)
LT	76	Rodger Saffold (6-5, 275, So.)
LG	64	Pete Saxon (6-6, 310, So.)
C	61	Ben Wyss (6-1, 280, r-Sr.)
RG	50	John Sandberg (6-2, 290, r-Sr.)
RT	70	Charlie Emerson (6-5, 280, r-Jr.)
TE	88	Nick Sexton (6-5, 258, r-Sr.)
WR	82	James Hardy (6-7, 220, r-Jr.)
WR	13	Andrew Means (6-0, 208, r-So.)
WR	6	James Bailey (6-2, 205, r-Jr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	57	Jammie Kirlew (6-3, 257, r-So.)
NT	95	Joe Kremer (6-2, 305, r-Sr.)
DT	62	Greg Brown (6-2, 299, r-Jr.)
RE	92	Greg Middleton (6-3, 265, So.)
SLB	34	Will Patterson (6-1, 233, So.)
MLB	51	Adam McClurg (6-0, 215, r-Sr.)
WLB	56	Geno Johnson (6-2, 220, Jr.)
LCB	28	Leslie Majors (5-9, 168, Sr.)
RCB	9	Tracy Porter (5-11, 185, Sr.)
FS	8	Nick Polk (6-0, 205, r-So.)
SS	20	Austin Thomas (6-2, 197, r-So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	18	Austin Starr (6-2, 207, r-Jr.)
P	93	Michael Hines (5-11, 194, r-Sr.)

Minneapolis » 2006 Record: 6-7 » Big Ten: 3-5

(lost to Texas Tech in the Insight Bowl, 44-41 in OT)

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS (((#10

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Tim Brewster, 1st year
Stadium: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome
Tickets: 800-UGOPHER
Capacity: 64,172
Official athletic Web site:
www.gophersports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6
2005	7
2004	7
2003	10
2002	8

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Bowling Green**	
S. 8	**Miami (OH)**	
S. 15	@FAU*	
S. 22	**Purdue**	21-27
S. 29	**Ohio State**	0-44
O. 6	@INDIANA	63-26
O. 13	@NORTHWESTERN	
O. 20	**North Dakota State**	10-9
O. 27	@MICHIGAN	14-28
N. 3	**Illinois**	
N. 10	@IOWA	34-24
N. 17	**WISCONSIN**	12-48

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

If Tim Brewster plans to make a splash, this is a way to rock the league and tilt the standings.

** at Miami, FL*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **45/12**

» OFFENSE

QB	17	Tony Mortensen (6-3, 230, r-Jr.)
RB	29	Amir Pinnix (6-0, 205, r-Sr.)
FB	18	Justin Valentine (6-1, 230, r-Sr.)
LT	76	Dominic Alford (6-3, 305, r-Fr.)
LG	74	Ryan Ruckdashel (6-5, 275, r-So.)
C	77	Tony Brinkhaus (6-3, 295, r-Sr.)
RG	66	Nedward Tavale (6-2, 305, r-So.)
RT	64	Steve Shidell (6-5, 290, r-Sr.)
TE	80	Jack Simmons (6-4, 240, r-Jr.)
WR	1	Ernie Wheelwright (6-5, 215, r-Sr.)
WR	7	Eric Decker (6-2, 210, r-So.)

» DEFENSE

LE	94	Willie Dyson (6-3, 230, So.)
DT	51	Eric Small (6-2, 265, Jr.)
DT	70	Todd Meisel (6-4, 275, r-Sr.)
RE	91	Willie VanDeSteeg (6-4, 255, r-Jr.)
SLB	92	Steve Davis (6-2, 235, Jr.)
MLB	58	Mike Sherels (6-0, 240, r-Sr.)
WLB	46	John Shevlin (6-1, 225, r-Sr.)
CB	2	Dominic Jones (5-8, 190, Jr.)
CB	11	Desi Steib (6-0, 185, r-Sr.)
FS	26	Duran Cooley (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS	23	Dominique Barber (6-0, 210, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	31	Jason Giannini (5-9, 185, r-Jr.)
P	41	Justin Kucek (6-0, 200, r-Jr.)

The Glen Mason era ended after Minnesota appeared in another bowl game. No one cared about the bowl appearance when the Golden Gophers disappeared in the fourth quarter and overtime. By allowing 30 points in just over 15 minutes, they gift-wrapped a game for Texas Tech and triggered a head-coaching search.

Enter Tim Brewster from the Denver Broncos, who has a Big Ten background from his days at Illinois, but a 0-0 mark as a head coach. From all early indications in the Twin Cities, he and his staff have restored the team's confidence and rebuilt a shattered psyche.

Minnesota must find a replacement for three-year starting quarterback Bryan Cupito. Brewster has his first key personnel decision with junior Tony Mortensen and redshirt freshman Adam Weber. Both do roughly the same things, so an injury or a substitution shouldn't mean much to the system.

The best news for either quarterback is the return of senior running back Amir Pinnix, arguably the most overlooked star in the conference. Pinnix rushed for 1,272 yards, a 5.0 average and 10 touchdowns in 2006. He can always run behind senior center Tony Brinkhaus, sophomore guard Nedward Tavale and senior tackle Steve Shidell.

Top wide receiver Logan Payne (59 catches) and All-Big Ten tight end Matt Spaeth (47) are gone. That leaves enigmatic senior Ernie Wheelwright and sophomore Eric Decker as the top returning targets.

Nine starters return on defense, with the three best players being junior end Willie VanDeSteeg, senior linebacker Mike Sherels and junior cornerback Dominic Jones.

Brewster has been selling himself and his program non-stop since arriving in Minneapolis. Selling is fine. But he needs to buy time.

Champaign » 2006 Record: 2-10 » Big Ten: 1-7

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (((#11

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Ron Zook, 3rd year (4-19)
Career Record: 27-33
Stadium: Memorial Stadium
Tickets: 866-ILLINI-1
Capacity: 69,259
Official athletic Web site:
www.fightingillini.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	2
2005	2
2004	3
2003	1
2002	5

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Missouri***	
S. 8	**Western Illinois**	
S. 15	@SYRACUSE	21-31
S. 22	@INDIANA	32-34
S. 29	**PENN STATE**	12-26
O. 6	**Wisconsin**	24-30
O. 13	@IOWA	7-24
O. 20	**Michigan**	
O. 27	**Ball State**	
N. 3	@MINNESOTA	
N. 10	@OHIO STATE	10-17
N. 17	**Northwestern**	16-27

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

How serious are the Illini? We'll all find out in this game, which presents a barometer against an opponent with the greatest stability in the Big Ten.

** at St. Louis, MO*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **20**
Lettermen returning/lost: **45/14**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Juice Williams (6-2, 220, So.)
FB	41	Russ Weil (6-0, 240, Sr.)
RB	5	Rashard Mendenhall (5-11, 210, Jr.)
LT	69	Akim Millington (6-6, 310, Sr.)
LG	64	Martin O'Donnell (6-5, 300, Sr.)
C	60	Ryan McDonald (6-5, 300, Jr.)
RG	52	Jon Asamoah (6-5, 265, So.)
RT	76	Charles Myles (6-6, 320, Sr.)
WR	21	Kyle Hudson (5-11, 165, Jr.)
WR	6	Chris James (6-0, 177, So.)
WR	8	DaJuan Warren (6-2, 210, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	91	Derek Walker (6-4, 270, Jr.)
DT	96	Chris Norwell (6-6, 290, Sr.)
DT	94	David Lindquist (6-3, 280, Jr.)
DE	95	Doug Pilcher (6-5, 260, So.)
LB	44	Brit Miller (6-1, 245, Jr.)
LB	47	J Leman (6-2, 245, Sr.)
LB	40	Antonio Steele (6-2, 210, Sr.)
CB	31	Travon Bellamy (6-0, 195, So.)
CB	1	Vontae Davis (6-0, 185, So.)
FS	42	Kevin Mitchell (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SS	32	Justin Harrison (5-11, 205, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Jason Reda (6-1, 200, Sr.)
P	37	Kyle Yelton (6-0, 180, So.)

When Ron Zook arrived at Illinois two years ago, he knew the only way to compete was to get better football players. But actually having the ability to do that has impressed a lot of people and depressed some beaten opponents.

The former Florida coach has long been known as a charmer who could get good players and leave them roughly that way—nothing more. But Illinois is getting better as a team, though the record slipped from 2-9 to 2-10 last season. The Illini were able to win a conference game, celebrating that victory in Spartan Stadium.

Better yet, the program's disposition changed, as seen in a dramatic upgrade in the run game. When was the last time a Big Ten rushing champ finished last in the standings? That would be 2006, as Illinois averaged 188.8 yards per game and 5.2 per carry. And who would ever have guessed that the Illini would finish last through the air?

But that's what happened with freshman quarterback Isiah "Juice" Williams learning the game and scampering for gains. Williams (6-2, 220) is a marvelous athlete, but he has a lot to learn at this level. And 39.5-percent accuracy with the same number of interceptions (nine) than touchdowns won't get it done in any league.

Williams may have to be more of a passer since Illinois lost veteran runners Pierre Thomas and E.B. Halsey. Junior Rashard Mendenhall (5-11, 210) is back with his gaudy 8.2-yard average, however. If he can come within three yards of that this season, the Illini ground game should be fine.

The top three receivers return, including deceptive junior Kyle Hudson, who has led the team in catches the past two seasons. The big news with the wideouts this offseason was the arrival of midyear freshman Arrelious Benn, who wowed the staff in spring drills.

BIG 12

www.big12sports.com

Look for power again to come from the South, but the big surprise may lie up North, where Mizzou could loom large

By **BLAIR KERKHOFF**
Kansas City Star

The Big 12 suffered a little slippage in 2006. There were no victories over a ranked non-conference opponent and a 3-5 bowl record. No team finished in the final top 10 for the first time in league history. NFL teams selected 28 of its players in the April draft, a total on the lower side compared with previous years.

There were some extenuating circumstances. Oklahoma was robbed of a victory at Oregon and tricked out of another one against Boise State. And Texas had a hard act to follow after its national-championship season of 2005.

And there were some breakthroughs. Nebraska returned to the league title game for the first time since 1999. Texas A&M ended a six-game losing streak to Texas and Kansas State returned to a bowl game for the first time since winning the 2003 league title.

This year looks to continue trends established over the past few seasons.

Defending league champion Oklahoma and Texas appear to be the strongest teams. The Sooners are established up and down the lineup, except at quarterback, where a three-man race will run into fall camp.

Texas returns one of the league's top quarterbacks in Colt McCoy, who established several freshman standards a year ago, but the Longhorns have questions in several other areas such as pass defense and rushing offense.

The South should again be the stronger division, with Oklahoma State poised to make a move, Texas A&M in a pounding mode and Texas Tech flashing its spread offense with several new targets.

The North should come down to Nebraska and Missouri. The nod here goes to the Tigers, seeking a first-place finish for the first time since 1969. One of the Big 12's top offenses, led by QB Chase Daniel and tight ends Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman, will power Mizzou. Defense is the mystery.

One new coach isn't exactly a new face. Iowa State's Gene Chizik, who replaced Dan McCarney, had been Texas' defensive coordinator the previous two years and hopes to recruit some of the Texas-based talent that's helped the South dominate the league so convincingly.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

NORTH

1. MISSOURI — P. 69, STOCK: UP
2. NEBRASKA — P. 71, STOCK: STEADY
3. KANSAS STATE — P. 73, STOCK: STEADY
4. KANSAS — P. 74, STOCK: STEADY
5. COLORADO — P. 75, STOCK: UP
6. IOWA STATE — P. 75, STOCK: DOWN

SOUTH

1. OKLAHOMA — P. 76, STOCK: STEADY
2. TEXAS — P. 78, STOCK: STEADY
3. OKLAHOMA STATE — P. 80, STOCK: UP
4. TEXAS A&M — P. 81, STOCK: UP
5. TEXAS TECH — P. 82, STOCK: DOWN
6. BAYLOR — P. 82, STOCK: STEADY

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. TEXAS ▸ Longhorns, yawn, get the league's top class.
2. NEBRASKA ▸ First class without recruiting master John Blake (now at North Carolina) went well.
3. OKLAHOMA ▸ Quarterback Keith Nichol will battle for the starting job.
4. OKLAHOMA STATE ▸ Cowboys went after and got skill players on both sides.
5. COLORADO ▸ Terrific rebound class led by offensive lineman Ryan Miller.
6. MISSOURI ▸ Fans were happy about 13 signees from inside the Show-Me State.
7. KANSAS STATE ▸ Second-year staff finds athletes, then positions.
8. TEXAS A&M ▸ Coach Dennis Franchione countered fans' gripes about low-rated class with two sleepers he signed at previous stops: Brian Urlacher (New Mexico) and DeMeco Ryans (Alabama).
9. KANSAS ▸ Top product is a hometown hero, defensive back Ryan Murphy.
10. TEXAS TECH ▸ Raiders got their offensive-line targets; the best could be Lonnie Edwards.
11. IOWA STATE ▸ Juco-heavy class led by running back Jamicah Bass.
12. BAYLOR ▸ The bloodlines are there. Five signees are sons of NFL players.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Colt McCoy, So., Texas	Ian Campbell, Jr., Kansas State	DL
RB	Jorvorskie Lane, Jr., Texas A&M	Chris Harrington, Sr., Texas A&M	DL
RB	Dantrell Savage, Sr., Oklahoma State	Ndamukong Suh, So., Nebraska	DL
OL	Cody Wallace, Sr., Texas A&M	Frank Okam, Sr., Texas	DL
OL	Kirk Elder, Sr., Texas A&M	Jordon Dizon, Sr., Colorado	LB
OL	George Robinson, Jr., Oklahoma	Bo Ruud, Sr., Nebraska	LB
OL	Matt Slauson, Jr., Nebraska	Alvin Bowen, Sr., Iowa State	LB
OL	Tyler Luellen, Sr., Missouri	Aqib Talib, Jr., Kansas	DB
WR	Adarius Bowman, Sr., Oklahoma State	Terrence Wheatley, Sr., Colorado	DB
WR	Limas Sweed, Sr., Texas	Reggie Smith, Jr., Oklahoma	DB
TE	Martin Rucker/Chase Coffman, Sr/Jr., Missouri	Marcus Watts, Sr., Kansas State	DB
PK	Garrett Hartley, Sr., Oklahoma	Justin Brantly, Jr., Texas A&M	P

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel will be the league's highest-rated passer and lead his team to its first division title.
2. Sam Bradford will emerge as Oklahoma's starting quarterback, prove to be an able game manager and the Sooners will break their two-game losing streak to Texas.
3. Oklahoma State makes the biggest move, getting to nine victories and a nice bowl game.
4. Colorado begins its climb back to respectability and returns to a bowl game—next year.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Kerry Franks, Texas A&M

BEST HANDS
Jordy Nelson, WR, Kansas State

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Colt McCoy, Texas

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Stephen McGee, Texas A&M

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Allen Patrick, Oklahoma

BEST INSTINCTS
Chase Coffman, TE, Missouri

BEST ATHLETE
Bernard Jackson, QB/WR/KR/RB, Colorado

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Jorvorskie Lane, RB, Texas A&M

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Adarius Bowman, WR, Oklahoma State

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Curtis Brown, DB, Texas

HARDEST HITTER
Jordon Dizon, LB, Colorado

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Jamaal Charles, RB, Texas

DOUGLAS JONES / ICON SMI

TOP 25 SELECTION

MISSOURI TIGERS

1 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 8-5 » **Big 12 North:** 4-4 *(lost to Oregon State in the Sun Bowl, 39-38)*

Stadium: Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field (68,349) **Tickets:** 800-CAT-PAWS **Columbia**

» **Head Coach:** Gary Pinkel
7th year (37-34) **Career Record:** 110-71-3

Official athletic Web site: www.mutigers.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@ILLINOIS*	
S. 8	@MISSISSIPPI	34-7
S. 15	**Western Michigan**	
S. 22	**Illinois State**	
O. 6	» **NEBRASKA**	20-34
O. 13	@OKLAHOMA	10-26
O. 20	**Texas Tech**	38-21
O. 27	**Iowa State**	16-21
N. 3	@COLORADO	28-13
N. 10	**Texas A&M**	19-25
N. 17	@KANSAS STATE	41-21
N. 24	@KANSAS**	42-17

» GAME TO WATCH «

Never too early for a division showdown. The Tigers have won the previous two meetings in Columbia.

** at St. Louis, MO*
*** at Kansas City, MO*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2005	7	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2004	5	
2003	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2002	5	

CONFERENCE TITLE BOWL NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Staters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **39/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Chase Daniel (6-0, 225, Jr.)
TB	22	Tony Temple (5-9, 200, Sr.)
LT	79	Tyler Luellen (6-7, 295, Sr.)
LG	76	Ryan Madison (6-5, 300, Jr.)
C	77	Adam Spieker (6-3, 305, Sr.)
RG	78	Kurtis Gregory (6-5, 305, So.)
RT	68	Dain Wise (6-5, 305, So.)
TE	82	Martin Rucker (6-5, 255, Sr.)
WR	2	Will Franklin (6-2, 205, Sr.)
WR	84	Tommy Saunders (6-0, 210, Jr.)
WR	81	Danario Alexander (6-4, 205, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	63	Tommy Chavis (6-2, 280, Jr.)
DT	94	Evander Hood (6-4, 295, Jr.)
NT	99	Lorenzo Williams (6-1, 295, Sr.)
DE	38	Stryker Sulak (6-5, 240, Jr.)
SLB	5	Van Alexander (6-0, 230, Jr.)
MLB	34	Brock Christopher (6-2, 240, Jr.)
WLB	12	Sean Weatherspoon (6-1, 230, So.)
CB	3	Darnell Terrell (6-3, 205, Sr.)
CB	28	Hardy Ricks (6-0, 190, So.)
FS	1	William Moore (6-1, 215, Jr.)
SS	13	Cornelius Brown (5-11, 205, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	99	Jeff Wolfert (6-2, 185, So.)
P	90	Adam Crossett (6-3, 225, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	4

Mighty Mizzou looks to place history aside and fulfill its vast potential with a title

The problem with making Missouri the favorite in the North Division is history.

The Tigers not only haven't won a division title, as last season's second-place tie matched their best finish in 11 years.

The last league championship? That would be 1969.

The Big 12 has operated in cycles like any conference. Some programs are title contenders, some not. But where the league separates itself from others is the number of schools that have actually won divisions.

In 11 years, only three from each side have finished first.

In the North, it has been Nebraska, Kansas State and Colorado.

In the South, Texas, Oklahoma and Texas A&M.

Once, Iowa State matched the Buffs' first-place record, but the Cyclones lost out on a tiebreaker.

Separation lines clearly have been defined, but this may be the year of a breakthrough. Missouri just might have enough talent and momentum to play on the first week of December.

Let's start with the area of most concern: Missouri will be as good as its defense allows.

The bowl game typified the Tigers' woes a year ago. Mizzou had reached the midway point of the fourth quarter with a two-touchdown lead on Oregon State in the Sun Bowl. The Tigers had been flying up and down the field and would amass 561 total yards, averaging nearly nine yards per play. All they needed in the final minutes was a defensive stop.

It didn't happen. The Beavers scored twice, caught everybody by surprise by tacking on a two-point conversion after the second score, and broke Missouri hearts with a 39-38 triumph.

Six starters are gone from that unit, which really was never the same after defensive end Brian Smith went down with a broken hip against Kansas State. Smith was on his way to a Big 12 career sack record and forced opponents to think about which way to run.

But Missouri finished with the second-worst rushing defense in league games.

"There is no question we have to get better against the run," Missouri Coach Gary Pinkel says. "Sorting out the defensive line is the key."

Specifically, the ends. Nose tackle Lorenzo Williams and tackle Evander Hood are returning starters, but junior-college transfer Andy Maples had a spring that was good enough to be part of the rotation, or even move one of the starters to the outside. The Tigers worked with five scholarship ends in the spring and only one, Stryker Sulak, has starting experience.

"We have to get more physical up front," Pinkel says. "We haven't changed our structure in any way, just our approach."

Linebacker is also a rebuilding unit, with Brock Christopher as the only returning starter. Christopher will move to the middle from the strongside and is a good one. Sean Weatherspoon played in all 13 games last season and gets the nod at weakside. Van Alexander, set to start last year before a hip injury cut his season short, is lining up on the strongside.

Freshmen Michael Keck and Luke Lambert, who cut short their senior years of high school to participate in spring drills, are up-and-comers and will play this season, as will converted running back Connell Davis.

The secondary offers much the same story, although the Tigers look solid at cornerback. Darnell Terrell led Missouri with nine pass breakups and earned some all-conference accolades. On the other side is Hardy Ricks, who started eight games as an injury replacement.

William Moore will start at free safety. His 2006 highlight was an interception returned for a touchdown against Texas Tech. Cornelius Brown looks like the starter at strong safety. Del Howard, who played in 12 games as a true frosh, will get a look at safety.

One way for the defense to improve is to keep itself off the field. Missouri's offense was so efficient last year, the Tigers ranked dead last in time of possession in league games, holding the ball for an average of 27:46. This from a team that ranked eighth nationally with 425.6 yards per game.

"I remember going into last season thinking we had some players who could be impact guys," Pinkel says. "And that happened."

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	MISSOURI	OPP
SCORING	391	254
Points Per Game	30.1	19.5
FIRST DOWNS	291	246
Rushing	104	101
Passing	168	125
Penalty	19	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1943	1749
Yards gained rushing	2302	2127
Yards lost rushing	359	378
Rushing Attempts	457	465
Average Per Rush	4.3	3.8
Average Per Game	149.5	134.5
TDs Rushing	16	11
PASSING YARDAGE	3590	2414
Att-Comp-Int	465-291-11	400-231-13
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.0
Average Per Catch	12.3	10.5
Average Per Game	276.2	185.7
TDs Passing	29	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	5533	4163
Total Plays	922	865
Average Per Play	6.0	4.8
Average Per Game	425.6	320.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	24-410	52-1097
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	25-187	17-188
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-200	11-77
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.1	21.1
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.5	11.1
INT RETURN AVERAGE	15.4	7.0
FUMBLES-LOST	22-15	25-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	60-514	65-562
Average Per Game	39.5	43.2
PUNTS-YARDS	48-1852	66-2689
Average Per Punt	38.6	40.7
Net punt average	32.2	36.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	27:46	32:14
3RD-DOWN CONV.	92/190	70/181
3rd-Down Pct	48%	39%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/17	8/21
4th-Down Pct	53%	38%
SACKS BY-YARDS	36-216	19-163
MISC YARDS	1	-7
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	48	32
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	18-21	9-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-45 100%	29-30 97%
ATTENDANCE	391424	272820
Games/Avg Per Game	7/55918	5/54564
Neutral Site Games		1/48732

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Missouri	112	102	93	84		391
Opponent	58	77	70	49		254

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Chase Daniel						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	145.06	452-287-10	63.5	3527	28	271.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tony Temple	13	193	1063	5.5	7	81.8
Chase Daniel	13	147	379	2.6	4	29.2
Jimmy Jackson	13	32	123	3.8	1	9.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chase Coffman	13	58	638	11.0	9	49.1
Martin Rucker	13	53	511	9.6	5	39.3
William Franklin	11	48	829	17.3	6	75.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Marcus Bacon	13	70	42	112
Dedrick Harrington	13	74	26	100
David Overstreet	12	60	29	89

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Xzavie Jackson	12	8.0	51
Brian Smith	8	7.5	65
Lorenzo Williams	13	6.0	29

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Brandon Massey	3	13	4.3	0
Marcus Bacon	2	100	50.0	0
Del Howard	2	16	8.0	0

In a big way. The Tigers entered last season knowing quarterback Chase Daniel could perform. But for Daniel to statistically surpass in some areas the player he replaced—offensive machine Brad Smith—he went above and beyond.

In his sophomore season, Daniel set school records for passing touchdowns (28), yards (3,527) and total offense (3,906).

He's the guy from Southlake, Texas, that Texas didn't recruit until after Daniel had Missouri's undivided attention. The Longhorns didn't like Daniel's 6-foot frame, but he's proved in his two seasons that height isn't everything.

Daniel's aim this year is to put an even wider gap between touchdown passes and interceptions. Last year, half of his 10 picks came against two foes he'll see this season, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

As he did last year, Daniel will throw often to the tight end, a position that combined for 111 receptions, 1,149 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2006. How is that player not in the NFL? He will be—both of them. Those were the combined totals of Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman, the nation's top tight-end tandem.

Rucker was a first-team all-league pick by the coaches, Coffman by the media. And Pinkel caught heat for not having them on the field at the same time enough last year.

But there are only so many balls to go around and the Tigers' receiving corps needs its fill. Missouri returns about 90 percent of its production at wide receiver, starting with Will Franklin (48 catches, 829 yards). Tommy Saunders (25, 271) is the team's most sure-handed receiver and, despite starting only twice as a freshman, Jared Perry wound up leading Big 12 rookies with 37 receptions for 429 yards.

With all this throwing, do Missouri running backs get lonely? Tony Temple didn't in the Sun Bowl, when he rushed for a school bowl record of 194 yards. Temple went over 1,000 yards for the year that day to complete a breakout season.

Marcus Woods is a former co-starter at running back, but he's battling for playing time behind Temple with Jimmy Jackson.

Three starters return to an offensive line that is a strength of this team. Left tackle Tyler Luellen and center Adam Spieker are fourth-year starters. Junior left guard Ryan Madison is also a returning regular, and senior Monte Wyrick made seven starts last year, four at right guard. However, sophomore Kurtis Gregory was ahead of him there after spring drills. This is a group that surrendered only 19 sacks last year.

Completing the picture is a dependable kicking game. Special-teams woes have at times been an issue at Missouri, but not in 2006. Walk-on Jeff Wolfert won the starting role last fall and became a Lou Groza Award semifinalist with a school-record 18 field goals (20 attempts) and 99 points. Punter Adam Crossett became more adept with his hang time last year, and is on his way to becoming one of the best booters in school history.

Saunders and Woods will likely handle the punt-return chores, while reserve tailback Earl Goldsmith is back as the kick-return specialist.

As it did last year, the schedule sets up nicely for the Tigers. Two of the non-league teams, Illinois and Mississippi, are coming off a combined 6-18 season. There are only three league road contests because the game with Kansas begins a two-year run in Kansas City.

If the defense holds, the Tigers could win a division—and make history.

THE NEXT BIG THING

ANDY MAPLES, DT

Signed from junior college to help improve the defense, he'll get his opportunity. One JC service had Maples listed as the nation's third-best tackle.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Tigers collected signatures from 27 prospects, including eight touted in-state signees.

The most heralded recruit from the Missouri high school ranks is defensive end/linebacker **Michael Keck** (6-5, 215), who received some All-America recognition and was recruited by several Big 12, Big Ten and SEC schools.

Keck is an aggressive defender with a nonstop motor who could play early. A productive and active athlete, he recorded more than 250 tackles his last two prep seasons.

Two other key in-state recruits are running backs **Derrick Washington** (6-1, 195), who helped his team win a state championship in 2005, and **Carl Gettis** (5-10, 185), who rushed for more than 1,200 yards as a high school senior.

Other Missouri prep products who could contribute early are offensive lineman **Jayson Palmgren** (6-3, 295) and wide receiver **Rolandis Woodland** (6-5, 185).

Two out-of-state recruits who might make future impacts are linebacker/defensive end **George White** (6-2, 255) from Michigan, plus athlete **Gilbert Moye** (6-2, 200) and wide receiver **Kendall Irving** (5-10, 175) from Texas.

Five junior-college transfers are in this class. The top name could be defensive lineman **Andy Maples** (6-4, 295), who played at the College of the Sequoias in California.

The Tigers failed to land a quarterback, however, which may come back to haunt them in the future.

—Doug Huff

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

#2

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-5 » **Big 12 North:** 6-2 *(lost to Auburn in the Cotton Bowl, 17-14)*

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (81,067) **Tickets:** 402-472-3111 **Lincoln**

» **Head Coach: Bill Callahan**
4th year (22-15) **Career Record:** 22-15

Official athletic Web site: www.huskers.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Nevada**	
S. 8	@WAKE FOREST	
S. 15	» **USC**	10-28
S. 22	**Ball State**	
S. 29	**Iowa State**	28-14
O. 6	@MISSOURI	34-20
O. 13	**Oklahoma State**	29-41
O. 20	**Texas A&M**	28-27
O. 27	@TEXAS	20-22
N. 3	@KANSAS	39-32 (OT)
N. 10	**Kansas State**	21-3
N. 23	@COLORADO	37-14

» GAME TO WATCH «

Want to be a national program again? Win games like this.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

PROJECTED STARTERS

Staters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **49/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	5	Sam Keller (6-4, 230, Sr.)
IB	20	Marlon Lucky (6-0, 210, Jr.)
FB	36	Thomas Lawson (6-0, 240, Jr.)
LT	77	Carl Nicks (6-5, 330, Sr.)
LG	62	Andy Christensen (6-3, 300, Jr.)
C	59	Brett Byford (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RG	61	Mike Huff (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	70	Matt Slauson (6-5, 335, Jr.)
TE	85	J.B. Phillips (6-3, 245, Sr.)
WR	83	Terrence Nunn (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR	16	Maurice Purify (6-4, 220, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	99	Barry Turner (6-3, 250, Jr.)
DT	93	Ndamukong Suh (6-4, 305, So.)
DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler (6-3, 285, Jr.)
DE	98	Zach Potter (6-7, 280, Jr.)
SLB	15	Steve Octavien (6-0, 240, Sr.)
MLB	13	Corey McKeon (6-1, 225, Sr.)
WLB	51	Bo Ruud (6-3, 235, Sr.)
CB	2	Cortney Grixby (5-9, 170, Sr.)
CB	25	Andre Jones (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS	30	Tierre Green (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SS	3	Rickey Thenarse (6-0, 190, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Jake Wesch (6-1, 200, Jr.)
P	97	Dan Titchener (6-0, 200, Jr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

Sun Devils' loss is Huskers' gain—transfer Keller gives Callahan his gunslinger

Progress never moves fast enough. Nebraska has taken another step in each season since Coach Bill Callahan's first in Lincoln, when the Cornhuskers finished 5-6. There was 8-4 and a bowl game in 2005 and 9-5 and a division championship last year.

"I think we're getting better and have closed the gap on a lot of people," Callahan says.

Clearly, the 2006 North Division title was significant. Nebraska hadn't played in the Big 12 Championship Game since 1999. Finishing 6-2 in league play (with one of the losses coming at home to Texas on a tough-break fumble) gave the program a true sense of accomplishment.

The Cornhuskers swept their North opponents for the first time in seven years. They had been 10-10 against them in the previous four seasons. When looking to reestablish dominance, it's good to start in the neighborhood.

But with an opportunity to make another statement, Nebraska was silenced in its final two games. The Huskers sought a landmark-type victory in either the Big 12 title game against Oklahoma or the Cotton Bowl against Auburn. Both were top-10 teams.

It didn't happen, so into 2007 Nebraska rides looking to build on its accomplishments without giving up ground.

With 13 returning starters, the Cornhuskers appear good enough to keep moving forward. Some of the optimism is centered on a position where a starter doesn't return, but a drop-off isn't expected.

Last season, quarterback Zac Taylor led an offense that finished No. 14 nationally in total yards. The 414.6 average per game was a 94-yard improvement over 2005. Taylor set several school passing records, even though he was on campus for only two seasons, and was named the league's Offensive Player of the Year.

Tough to replace, right?

Maybe not.

Sam Keller joined the program last fall from Arizona State after a strange turn of events in Tempe. Keller had been named the starter in fall camp before Coach Dirk Koetter (very publicly) switched to Rudy Carpenter the next day after meeting with the team's senior leaders.

Keller checked out and headed for Nebraska and brought along some impressive credentials. He's played in 20 games over three seasons, starting the first seven of the 2005 campaign. His first career start came in the 2004 Sun Bowl and he was named the game's Offensive MVP after throwing for 370 yards and three touchdowns against Purdue.

As the full-time starter for ASU, he averaged 270.6 yards per game and threw 20 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He tossed four touchdown passes in each of the first four games, including a loss to LSU.

"I was on fire that year," Keller recalls.

But a thumb injury ended his season, and a coaching decision ended his Arizona State career.

"They made a business decision to go in a different direction," Keller says.

So did Keller. He landed at a program that runs an NFL-type offense and picked up the schemes quickly in his transfer sit-out year. The Sun Devils suffered through a tumultuous season that culminated in Koetter's dismissal.

Callahan played it smart and didn't name Keller the starter until after spring ball. Keller competed with the capable Joe Ganz, a fourth-year junior who was part of Callahan's first recruiting class. Ganz knows the offense better than anyone outside of the coach's office.

But Keller's been in the fire, and all signs point to a return to the flames this season. Whoever is throwing for Nebraska will have the best set of pass catchers in school history as targets. Remember, the old option Huskers went about a quarter-century without much of a passing offense.

However, these guys are good. Maurice Purify is the playmaker, a large (6-4, 220 pounds), physical wide receiver who caught the game-winner at Texas A&M. Terrence Nunn (42 receptions) led Nebraska in catches last year and Nate Swift, Todd Peterson and Frantz Hardy have proven to be good-hands people. They're all back.

Tight end Matt Herian has moved on, but projected starter J.B. Phillips, a good blocker, combines with touchdown-maker Hunter Teafatiller to give Nebraska choices at the position.

Running backs are frequent targets of dumps and screens, and the

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	NEBRASKA	OPP
SCORING	428	256
Points Per Game	30.6	18.3
FIRST DOWNS	285	236
Rushing	125	82
Passing	144	144
Penalty	16	10
RUSHING YARDAGE	2387	1632
Yards gained rushing	2723	2042
Yards lost rushing	336	410
Rushing Attempts	554	436
Average Per Rush	4.3	3.7
Average Per Game	170.5	116.6
TDs Rushing	27	14
PASSING YARDAGE	3417	3014
Att-Comp-Int	411-244-8	446-238-12
Average Per Pass	8.3	6.8
Average Per Catch	14.0	12.7
Average Per Game	244.1	215.3
TDs Passing	32	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5804	4646
Total Plays	965	882
Average Per Play	6.0	5.3
Average Per Game	414.6	331.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-488	61-1096
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-294	18-73
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	12-113	8-83
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.4	18.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.2	4.1
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.4	10.4
FUMBLES-LOST	25-17	32-13
PENALTIES-YARDS	74-614	77-583
Average Per Game	43.9	41.6
PUNTS-YARDS	68-2660	83-3336
Average Per Punt	39.1	40.2
Net punt average	37.2	35.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:41	27:19
3RD-DOWN CONV.	90/199	63/192
3rd-Down Pct	45%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	14/23	9/23
4th-Down Pct	61%	39%
SACKS BY-YARDS	31-238	30-206
MISC YARDS	18	39
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	59	32
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	5-7	12-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	55-56	26-29
ATTENDANCE	595309	321505
Games/Avg Per Game	7/85044	5/64301
Neutral Site Games		2/73404

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Nebraska	117	135	49	120	7	428
Opponent	45	83	46	82	0	256

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Zac Taylor						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
14	146.12	391-233-8	59.6	3197	26	228.4

Joe Ganz						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	208.83	13-7-0	53.8	122	3	24.4

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Brandon Jackson	14	188	989	5.3	8	70.6
Marlon Lucky	14	141	728	5.2	6	52.0
Cody Glenn	9	71	370	5.2	8	41.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Terrence Nunn	14	42	597	14.2	3	42.6
Maurice Purify	14	34	630	18.5	7	45.0
Brandon Jackson	14	33	313	9.5	2	22.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Stewart Bradley	14	41	35	76
Andre Jones	14	52	22	74
Corey McKeon	13	32	37	69

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Adam Carriker	14	7.0	45
Jay Moore	14	6.0	43
Ndamukong Suh	14	3.5	37

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Andrew Shanle	4	19	4.8	0
Bo Ruud	2	54	27.0	0
Ndamukong Suh	1	0	0.0	0

THE NEXT BIG THING

» MAJOR CULBERT, RB

Culbert will play somewhere; he's too good not to take snaps. But in the offensive backfield? The sophomore was groomed as a safety last season but played running back in the spring.

Cornhuskers should have more focus at the position than a year ago when four players battled for playing time.

Brandon Jackson eventually emerged, but he's moved on, leaving Marlon Lucky as the back whose time has come. Lucky was a highly decorated high school player who rushed for 762 yards and six touchdowns last season. The Huskers survived a scare when Lucky was helped off the field late in the spring game with a knee injury. It turned out to be a sprain.

Kenny Wilson and Cody Glenn, who combined to rush for 729 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2006, are part of the picture.

The offensive line mirrors the program as a whole. It bottomed-out a few years ago and has steadily improved. Three full-time starters—center Brett Byford, right guard Mike Huff and right tackle Matt Slauson—are back along with Andy Christensen, who started six games at left guard. Coaches are high on Carl Nicks, a 330-pound senior who steps in at left tackle.

Defensive line is where the replacement action is. The Huskers lost all of their starters, including top-flight ends Adam Carriker and Jay Moore. Whereas end was the line's strength last season, Nebraska will lead with its middle this time.

Nose tackle Ndamukong Suh played in all 14 games last season and eight of his 19 tackles were for losses. He can line up at both tackle positions and the 6-4, 305-pounder can be a dominant player.

Tackle Ty Steinkuhler has the bloodlines. His father, Dean, was an Outland Trophy-winning offensive lineman. Ty Steinkuhler was moved to the interior after opening his career at end.

Stepping in at one end is Barry Turner, who does it all. He's been a sack-master (with six in 2005), a special-teams force by blocking a late field goal against Texas A&M and even a receiver. He caught a touchdown pass off a field-goal formation against Colorado. Zach Potter and Clayton Sievers, a converted tight end, will fight for the other end spot.

Four senior linebackers will form the heart of the defense. Returning starter Bo Ruud moved from the strongside to weakside to take advantage of his coverage skills. Corey McKeon is the unit's emotional leader who battled injuries last season and is eager to return to his sophomore form.

Defensive Coordinator Kevin Cosgrove will find time for Steve Octavien and Lance Brandenburgh, along with sophomore Phillip Dillard, who missed last season with a knee injury.

The secondary received a blow when cornerback Zackary Bowman tore a knee tendon in the spring. Bowman, who had a big freshman season that was capped by several big plays in a bowl victory over Michigan, missed last year with a torn ACL.

The original report said Bowman would miss six months, which, after rehabbing, might mean a return to the field by midseason. But Bowman said at the end of spring practice that he expects to be back sooner.

If so, that would be a huge boost to the Cornhuskers, who return three starters to the secondary in free safety Tierre Green and cornerbacks Cortney Grixby and Andre Jones.

Reliable kicker Jordan Congdon has moved on and, with kickoffs moving back to the 30-yard line this season, Nebraska may turn to strong-legged Alex Henery, a redshirt freshman from Omaha. If not Henery, junior Jake Wesch, who has thrown a touchdown pass from field-goal formation, figures to be the kicker.

Starting punter Dan Titchener returns, but don't count out redshirt freshman Michael Such.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Cornhuskers landed 28 recruits in the 2007 class ranked No. 14 nationally by *Street & Smith's*.

A blend of high school prospects and junior-college talent will hit campus this fall in Lincoln.

The touted jucos include defensive back **Armando Murillo** (6-0, 195), linebacker/defensive back **Larry Assante** (6-1, 205), quarterback **Zach Lee** (6-2, 205), offensive lineman **Shukree Barfield** (6-4, 310) and defensive linemen **Joseph Townsend** (6-4, 295) and **Kevin Dixon** (6-4, 275). Murillo could emerge as the early impact player among the group.

The high school list is headed by prep All-America wide receiver **Niles Paul** (6-1, 200) from Omaha. Paul is the nephew of former Cornhusker and current NFL running back Ahman Green.

Cornhusker coaches also landed acclaimed prospects from Arizona, Texas, Kansas, California, Louisiana and Florida.

The top-rated out-of-state players were offensive lineman **Javario Burkes** (6-4, 320) from Arizona and linebacker **Austin Stafford** (6-2, 210) of California.

Other prime recruits are defensive lineman **Terrence Moore** (6-3, 265) from Louisiana, running back **Quintin Castille** (6-1, 235) of Texas, linebacker **Blake Lawrence** (6-2, 210) from Kansas, athlete **DeAndre West** (6-1, 195) from California, defensive lineman **William Yancy** (6-4, 230) of Arizona and defensive back **Latravis Washington** (6-3, 205) from Florida. —*Doug Huff*

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

2006 Record: 7-6 » **Big 12 North: 4-4** *(lost to Rutgers in the Texas Bowl, 37-10)*

Stadium: Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000) **Tickets:** 800-221-CATS **Manhattan**

#3
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Ron Prince**
2nd year (7-6) **Career Record:** 7-6

Official athletic Web site: www.kstatesports.com

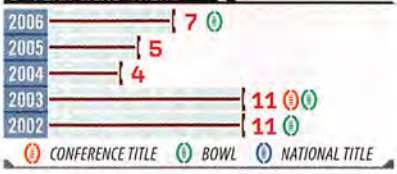
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@AUBURN	
S. 8	**San Jose State**	
S. 15	**Missouri State**	
S. 29	@TEXAS	45-42
O. 6	**Kansas**	20-39
O. 13	**Colorado**	34-21
O. 20	@OKLAHOMA STATE	31-27
O. 27	**Baylor**	3-17
N. 3	@IOWA STATE	31-10
N. 10	» @NEBRASKA	3-21
N. 17	**Missouri**	21-41
N. 24	@FRESNO STATE	

» GAME TO WATCH «

If the Wildcats take care of business at home and steal one or two on the road, they'll be in the thick of the division race this weekend.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **51/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	1	Josh Freeman (6-6, 250, So.)
RB	8	James Johnson (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	78	Alesana Alesana (6-4, 286, Jr.)
LG	69	Caleb Handy (6-1, 307, Jr.)
C	79	Jordan Bedore (6-3, 297, Jr.)
RG	65	Logan Robinson (6-8, 315, Sr.)
RT	64	Nick Stringer (6-6, 265, So.)
TE	89	Rashaad Norwood (6-3, 234, Sr.)
SLOT	27	Jordy Nelson (6-3, 217, Sr.)
WR	88	Cedric Wilson (6-1, 190, Jr.)
WR	83	Daniel Gonzalez (6-4, 219, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	96	Moses Manu (6-2, 260, Sr.)
DT	50	Alphonso Moran (6-0, 296, Jr.)
DE	95	Rob Jackson (6-4, 253, Sr.)
OLB	98	Ian Campbell (6-5, 242, Jr.)
ILB	53	Reggie Walker (6-1, 231, Jr.)
ILB	51	Justin Roland (6-0, 245, Sr.)
OLB	90	Eric Childs (6-3, 227, So.)
CB	22	Justin McKinney (5-9, 191, Sr.)
CB	4	Joshua Moore (5-11, 187, So.)
FS	36	Andrew Erker (6-1, 187, Jr.)
SS	2	Marcus Watts (6-1, 189, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	16	Brooks Rossman (6-0, 178, Jr.)
P	17	Tim Reyer (5-11, 201, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

Momentum from big Texas win should carry strongly into new campaign for Wildcats

Kansas State entered 2006 without the benefit of the doubt.

That's what happens when the legendary coach gets replaced by an exciting but unproven candidate and the starting quarterback is fresh out of high school.

Despite several returning starters, especially some top defensive personnel, the Wildcats were an easy choice for a bottom-half finish. And the forecast seemed dead on when K-State escaped Illinois State in the season opener and fell at Baylor to begin Big 12 play.

But the Wildcats started to figure things out, much more quickly than a program starting over could be expected. They started picking up some league victories until a triumph at Colorado made them bowl-eligible.

Then came the unforgettable night in Texas. The Wildcats outslugged the mighty Longhorns, handing them their first Big 12 loss in three years, ending a 21-game conference winning streak for Mack Brown's bunch.

Kansas State didn't win again, but no matter. The Wildcats had recaptured a spirit missing in Bill Snyder's final two seasons as coach and would seem to carry momentum into this season, although Coach Ron Prince isn't so sure.

"We had a nice season, but we didn't come close to reaching our goals," Prince says. "Our goal will always be to win the Big 12 North and to compete for the conference championship."

Kansas State faithful love the approach. Prince came to Manhattan to serve as a head coach for the first time. He had been Virginia's offensive coordinator the previous three years and was an offensive line coach for several schools in the East dating to 1992.

But he's a Midwest guy, born and raised in Junction City, Kan., and that endeared him to the fan base.

When Prince really won them over was when he talked the Freeman family out of their son Josh's commitment to Nebraska. Josh Freeman won the starting QB role in the fall and, if not for Texas' Colt McCoy, would have been the league's top offensive newcomer.

Freeman took over the starting role from veteran Dylan Meier after four games, looked like a freshman for a few games, then played like a commander when it mattered most. In the final four contests of the regular season, Freeman completed 64.5 percent of his passes and averaged 231.2 yards per game. K-State won three of those games, including the Texas triumph, to earn the bowl bid.

Any quarterback would feel good about the targets at wide receiver. Kansas State lost a good one in speedster Yamon Figurs, but former walk-on Jordy Nelson, the leading receiver in each of the past two seasons, is back and so are Daniel Gonzalez and Cedric Wilson, who have starting experience.

Also returning are the Wildcats' top two running backs. Leon Patton and James Johnson combined for 1,012 rushing yards and eight touchdowns last year.

Kansas State will sport a new defensive look, a 3-4, operated by new Defensive Cordinator Tim Tibesar. He was the special-teams coordinator last year. The change means new roles for several players, but it won't put an end to defensive end/outside linebacker Ian Campbell's sack ability. Campbell led Big 12 down linemen in tackles for loss (17.5) and was second in the league in sacks with 11.5. Like Nelson, Campbell came to the program as a walk-on and was one of the league's surprise stars of 2006. The secondary, led by yet another former walk-on, safety Marcus Watts, is a strength.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **MATT WYKES, WR**

Wykes could be the next in line of impact players who started in the program as walk-ons. Wide receiver Jordy Nelson, safety Marcus Watts and defensive tackle Ian Campbell all began that way. Wykes, a junior, opened eyes with a big spring game.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Lamark Brown, WR, 6-3, 215**
   Big, strong receiver who's a real problem for defenders.
2. **Chris Patterson, LB, 6-3, 220**
   Highly rated junior-college player.
3. **Brandon Walls, LB, 6-0, 210**
   Speed could result in early playing time.
4. **Gary Chandler, DB, 5-10, 180**
   Junior-college product should compete for a job.
5. **Curtis Thomas, DB, 6-1, 190**
   Texas product brings all-star credentials.

#4 KANSAS JAYHAWKS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 6-6 » **Big 12 North:** 3-5

Lawrence **Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (50,071) **Tickets:** 800-34-HAWKS

CB › Aqib Talib

Mangino looking to hold on to a few more second-half leads to get KU back in bowl groove

Kansas is coming off the ultimate what-if season.

What if the Jayhawks had held on to fourth-quarter leads against Nebraska and Texas A&M?

What if they had put away Oklahoma State after leading 17-0 in the third quarter?

What if they didn't blow an 18-point fourth-quarter lead at Baylor?

All of those conference losses were sharp blows to the solar plexus, but the most painful was the one that started the trend. On a Friday night at Toledo, the Jayhawks managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, somehow falling in overtime. Several times Kansas could have ended it, and instead the Jayhawks bumbled it away.

Kansas held the second-half lead in five of its six losses. Win any one of them and the Jayhawks get to seven victories and are in a bowl game for a successive season for the first time in school history.

Instead, although Kansas finished bowl-eligible at 6-6, there was no postseason spot for the team.

Where does Kansas go from here? The Jayhawks should be as good as last season, if not a little better, with 14 returning starters and a schedule dressed for success.

But a few things need fixing, beginning with pass defense.

Kansas ranked 119th in the nation—dead last—in yards allowed per game (269.1) through the air. The percentage of passes completed against the Jayhawks wasn't that bad (52.8) and the 22 TDs, although on the high side, weren't the most surrendered in the Big 12.

But the defense let down at critical times. Nebraska launched three scoring passes of 75 yards or longer on KU. Louisiana-Monroe put up 377 passing yards.

The contradiction here is Kansas has one of the nation's top cornerbacks in Aqib Talib. He led the nation in passes defended (breakups plus interceptions) and tied for the Big 12 lead with six picks.

Talib's career may be headed on the same path as former Kansas standout Charles Gordon. It was Talib's emergence in the secondary two years ago that allowed Gordon, an excellent corner, to be used at wide receiver.

In last year's season-ending loss to Missouri, Talib lined up at wide receiver, took a short pass and went 42 yards for a touchdown. He worked with the offense, often the No. 1 unit, during spring drills.

An improved defense would help Kansas figure out things on offense. The quarterbacks getting the late-season snaps return, but spring practice didn't determine a starter between Kerry Meier and Todd Reesing. Meier started eight games and averaged 149 yards per game while completing 56.5 percent of his passes. Reesing took off his redshirt in the ninth game and sparked the Jayhawks to a comeback victory over Colorado.

"I would like to have one guy be the No. 1 quarterback," Coach Mark Mangino says. "I think that's the way it will play out."

THE NEXT BIG THING

» JAKE SHARP, RB

A Kansas high school football hero who proved he belonged on the field last season and should become a major contributor.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Ryan Murphy, DB, 5-10, 175**
   Local prep product is top Jayhawk recruit.
2. **Anthony Davis, DB, 5-11, 185**
   Oklahoma standout is a top-notch pass thief.
3. **Drew Dudley, LB, 6-2, 215**
   Underrated Texan may be a real sleeper.
4. **Justin Springer, LB, 6-4, 220**
   Athletic defender big part of future plans.
5. **A.J. Steward, QB, 6-4, 215**
   Missouri product has loads of potential.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach:** Mark Mangino
6th year (25-35) **Career Record:** 25-35

Official athletic Web site: www.kuathletics.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	Central Michigan	
S. 8	Southeastern Louisiana	
S. 15	Toledo	31-37 (OT)
S. 22	Florida International	
O. 6	» @KANSAS STATE	39-20
O. 13	Baylor	35-36
O. 20	@COLORADO	20-15
O. 27	@TEXAS A&M	18-21
N. 3	Nebraska	32-39 (OT)
N. 10	@OKLAHOMA STATE	32-42
N. 17	Iowa State	41-10
N. 24	Missouri*	17-42

GAME TO WATCH

The Jayhawks have held serve at home recently. A road victory in the series would mean a shift in the state's balance of power.

** at Kansas City, MO*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6	
2005	7	CONFERENCE TITLE
2004	4	
2003	6	BOWL
2002	2	

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **55/21**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Kerry Meier (6-3, 215, r-So.)
RB	1	Jake Sharp (5-10, 190, So.)
FB	35	Brandon McAnderson (6-0, 235, r-Sr.)
LT	78	Anthony Collins (6-6, 300, r-Jr.)
LG	66	Adrian Mayes (6-3, 300, r-Jr.)
C	50	Ryan Cantrell (6-3, 285, r-Jr.)
RG	79	Chet Hartley (6-4, 315, Jr.)
RT	65	Cesar Rodriguez (6-7, 286, r-Sr.)
TE	85	Derek Fine (6-3, 245, r-Sr.)
WR	86	Marcus Henry (6-4, 200, Sr.)
WR	13	Marcus Herford (6-3, 210, r-Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	81	Russell Brorsen (6-4, 238, Jr.)
DT	72	Todd Haselhorst (6-4, 300, r-Jr.)
DT	93	James McClinton (6-1, 283, Sr.)
DE	87	John Larson (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
OLB	12	James Holt (6-3, 200, Jr.)
MLB	8	Joe Mortensen (6-1, 245, r-Jr.)
OLB	41	Arist Wright (6-0, 210, r-So.)
CB	3	Aqib Talib (6-2, 180, r-Jr.)
CB	24	Kendrick Harper (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS	25	Darrell Stuckey (6-1, 202, r-So.)
SS	36	Tang Bacheyie (6-1, 205, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Scott Webb (5-11, 180, r-Sr.)
P	15	Kyle Tucker (6-2, 205, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

DILIP VISHWANAT / SPORTPICS

COLORADO BUFFALOES (((# 5

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Dan Hawkins
2nd year (2-10)
Career Record: 55-21
Stadium: Folsom Field
Tickets: 800-87-BUFFS
Capacity: 53,750
Official athletic Web site:
www.cubuffs.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	2	
2005	7	Bowl
2004	7	Bowl
2003	5	
2002	9	Conference Title, Bowl, National Title

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Colorado State***	10-14
S. 8	**Arizona State**	3-21
S. 15	**Florida State**	
S. 22	**Miami (OH)**	
S. 29	**Oklahoma**	3-24
O. 6	@BAYLOR	31-34 (OT)
O. 13	@KANSAS STATE	21-34
O. 20	**Kansas**	15-20
O. 27	@TEXAS TECH	30-6
N. 3	**Missouri**	13-28
N. 10	@IOWA STATE	33-16
N. 23	**Nebraska**	14-37

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

Can the Buffs contend for the division? We'll know if they win this payback game.

** at Denver, CO*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **41/27**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Cody Hawkins (5-11, 190, r-Fr.)
TB	2	Hugh Charles (5-8, 190, Sr.)
FB	32	Maurice Cantrell (6-0, 240, Jr.)
LT	77	Tyler Polumbus (6-8, 300, r-Sr.)
LG	61	Erick Faatagi (6-2, 310, Jr.)
C	75	Daniel Sanders (6-3, 305, Jr.)
RG	72	Devin Head (6-4, 285, So.)
RT	76	Edwin Harrison (6-4, 300, Sr.)
TE	87	Riar Geer (6-3, 245, So.)
WR	4	Patrick Williams (6-2, 200, Jr.)
WR	17	Alvin Barnett (5-11, 190, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	91	Maurice Lucas (6-4, 255, Jr.)
NT	86	George Hypolite (6-1, 285, Jr.)
DT	94	Brandon Nicolas (6-3, 280, Jr.)
RE	47	Alonzo Barrett (6-3, 235, Sr.)
SLB	10	Michael Sipili (6-1, 250, So.)
MLB	44	Jordon Dizon (6-0, 225, Sr.)
WLB	40	Brad Jones (6-3, 225, Jr.)
LCB	26	Terrence Wheatley (5-10, 175, r-Sr.)
RCB	42	Benjamin Burney (5-11, 195, Jr.)
FS	15	Ryan Walters (5-11, 200, Jr.)
SS	25	Lionel Harris (6-0, 195, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Kevin Eberhart (5-11, 195, r-Sr.)
P	14	Matt DiLallo (6-1, 205, So.)

Although nobody was named the starting quarterback out of spring, the guess is Cody Hawkins will get the job. But not because he's the favorite-son candidate.

Cody is the son of Coach Dan Hawkins, and dad needs a QB. Last year's guy, Bernard Jackson, got better as the year progressed, but the Buffs went 2-10 and Jackson was the starter in nine of the losses.

Colorado didn't have a passing game with Jackson, but his 677 rushing yards were the third-most ever for a Buffs quarterback. Hawkins ran the scout team as a freshman last season and is a superb passer. He's battling transfer Nick Nelson, who passed for 1,910 yards in the California junior-college ranks last season.

Jackson will continue to play. He's too athletic not to. In spring, he lined up at wide receiver, kick-return specialist and running back, as well as quarterback. He's Colorado's newest "Slash."

Hugh Charles returns as the featured running back, and the wide receiver position has many candidates. Riar Geer is a rising star at tight end.

"It's no secret we need to improve in almost every aspect on offense," Hawkins says. "We didn't generate enough big plays, the passing game didn't generate a lot."

Defense kept Colorado in most games last year. The Buffs were especially tough up front and finished fourth in the Big 12 in rushing defense. Tackles George Hypolite and Brandon Nicolas are back, but they'll miss end Abraham Wright and his 11.5 sacks.

The defensive stud is inside linebacker Jordon Dizon, whose 137 tackles last season were the most by a Colorado player in nine years. Dizon will become the first four-year starter in the 18-year career of Colorado Linebackers Coach Brian Cabral. Terrence Wheatley is a returning all-conference cornerback.

IOWA STATE CYCLONES (((# 6

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Gene Chizik, 1st year
Stadium: Jack Trice Stadium
Tickets: 515-294-1816
Capacity: 50,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.cyclones.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4	
2005	7	Bowl
2004	7	Bowl
2003	2	
2002	7	Bowl

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**KENT STATE**	
S. 8	**Northern Iowa**	28-27
S. 15	**Iowa**	17-27
S. 22	@TOLEDO	45-43 (OT)
S. 29	@NEBRASKA	14-28
O. 6	@TEXAS TECH	26-42
O. 13	**Texas**	14-37
O. 20	**Oklahoma**	9-34
O. 27	@MISSOURI	21-16
N. 3	**Kansas State**	10-31
N. 10	**Colorado**	16-33
N. 17	@KANSAS	10-41

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

The opening impression is always the most important for a new staff.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **10**
Letterment returning/lost: **28/23**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Bret Meyer (6-3, 204, r-Sr.)
RB	6	Jason Scales (5-9, 217, r-Jr.)
FB	29	Brian Ekwelundu (5-11, 231, r-So.)
LT	75	Doug Dedrick (6-4, 271, So.)
LG	73	Reggie Stephens (6-3, 322, r-So)
C	60	Brandon Johnson (6-3, 309, r-Jr.)
RG	70	Tom Schmeling (6-3, 295, r-Jr.)
RT	76	Lee Tibbs (6-4, 315, Sr.)
TE	41	Ben Barkema (6-3, 252, r-Sr.)
WR	1	Todd Blythe (6-6, 209, r-Sr.)
WR	5	R.J. Sumrall (6-1, 200, r-Jr.)

» DEFENSE

WE	29	Rashawn Parker (6-0, 249, So.)
DT	93	Bryce Braaksma (6-3, 254, r-Sr.)
NG	71	Athyba Rubin (6-3, 285, Sr.)
DE	47	Kurtis Taylor (6-2, 255, r-Jr.)
SLB	16	Jon Banks (6-2, 219, r-Sr.)
MLB	54	Jesse Smith (6-0, 233, r-So.)
WLB	15	Alvin Bowen (6-2, 216, r-Sr.)
LCB	7	Drenard Williams (6-1, 223, So.)
RCB	11	Chris Singleton (5-10, 191, Jr.)
FS	2	James Smith (5-8, 192, r-So.)
SS	21	Caleb Berg (6-1, 202, r-Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Bret Culbertson (6-6, 179, Sr.)
P	13	Mike Brandtner (6-1, 208, r-So.)

One of the nation's top defensive coaches is Iowa State's new head man. Gene Chizik moves to Ames from Texas, where he coordinated the Longhorns' crew the previous two seasons, including the national-title team. Before then, he headed up Auburn's defense that led the nation in fewest points allowed.

He takes over for Dan McCarney, who many believed deserved one more year to put the Cyclones back on track. After all, McCarney's teams went to five bowl games in six years.

Chizik has his hands full, but there are some building blocks. The Cyclones return the league's top quarterback in terms of career yards and touchdowns. Bret Meyer is also the nation's top returning player in career total offense (7,979 yards).

But he's coming off a junior year in which his numbers regressed. His yards per game went from 239 to 212 and his touchdown total fell from 19 to 12. One problem: Meyer was running for his life. He was sacked 38 times last season.

Favorite target Todd Blythe also suffered through a junior slump. He caught nine scoring passes in each of his first two years, but got only eight last season and his 34 receptions were 17 fewer than his sophomore campaign.

Only two offensive linemen, guards Tom Schmeling and Reggie Stephens, have starting experience. At running back, Jason Scales will get the nod, at least until junior-college transfer J.J. Bass arrives in August.

Defense is Chizik's territory, and that's the side that needs more attention, especially up front. Iowa State will have trouble getting a true two-deep, and forget about experienced players. Linebacker Alvin Bowen led the nation in tackles at 12.9 per game. Safety Caleb Berg and cornerback Chris Singleton are solid.

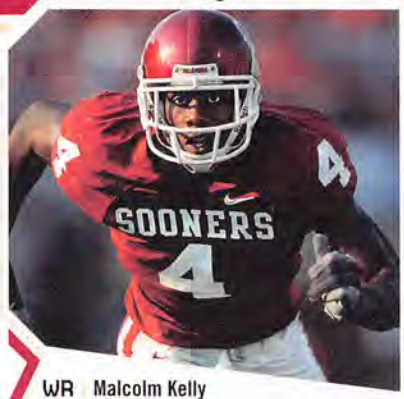
#1 OKLAHOMA SOONERS

TOP 25 SELECTION

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 11-3 **Big 12 South:** 7-1 *(lost to Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl, 43-42 OT)*

Norman **Stadium:** Gaylord Family – Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112) **Tickets:** 800-456-4668



WR Malcolm Kelly

'Plucky bunch' from Norman just needs a quarterback to make things very interesting

Gadget plays on three straight snaps—the final play of regulation, then the overtime touchdown and conversion—and Boise State became the stuff of legend. The Broncos took down mighty Oklahoma in the classic David-versus-Goliath matchup in the Fiesta Bowl.

The game rightfully will take its place among the game's fantastic finishes. It may even be the greatest, but let's remember something about the characters. Boise was a terrific team, undefeated and entirely capable of beating anybody with the possible exception of Florida and Ohio State.

And Oklahoma, while carrying the name and reputation of college football royalty, was actually a plucky bunch that overcame some bad breaks to even reach the bowl game. The Sooners lost their starting quarterback in the preseason to an NCAA scandal, got jobbed in the loss at Oregon and had to battle back in the South Division after falling to Texas.

College football may remember the 2006 Sooners as Boise State's foil. But this is a team that should be fondly recalled, starting with quarterback Paul Thompson.

He waited four years to become the starter, got his chance to open 2005 and promptly lost the job to Rhett Bomar after the Sooners were upset by TCU in the opener. Thompson switched to wide receiver with nary a complaint.

When Bomar and a teammate were caught with their hands in the cookie jar last August, Thompson was asked to return to his original position and he performed admirably.

Then the Sooners lost star running back Adrian Peterson to a broken collarbone after a touchdown dive in the second league game. The Sooners, now without the quarterback and running back on which all the preseason analysis was based, rode a strong defense to the division title. They knocked off Nebraska before a huge Cornhuskers crowd in Kansas City for the Big 12 crown.

Championships don't come more satisfying than that, and it is that accomplishment and not the Fiesta Bowl finish that should propel Oklahoma into this season, one in which the Sooners again are expected to battle Texas for league supremacy.

Here's the difference between Oklahoma and Texas: The Sooners have fewer question marks than the Longhorns at 21 positions. But the 22nd keeps Oklahoma from being an unequivocal favorite.

Quarterback is that uncertain in Norman. Spring practice did not produce a leader among Joey Halzle, Sam Bradford and Keith Nichol.

"I would guess it would be sometime in August," says Coach Bob Stoops about naming a starter. "When I feel a guy has earned it, we'll say so. This isn't new territory for us. We have four Big 12 championships with four different quarterbacks, so we're used to this. Hopefully we'll get back to another one with a different quarterback."

Halzle, a junior who started his career in the California juco ranks at Golden West College, is the only candidate with experience. He completed one of two passes against Middle Tennessee last season and played a few snaps against Iowa State.

Bradford is a redshirt freshman from Oklahoma City who had the best results in the spring game and may have been the sharpest overall in spring workouts.

Nichol is a freshman who missed his final semester at Lowell Senior High in Michigan to enroll early at Oklahoma. Whoever takes snaps for the Sooners this season won't be asked to be all-conference caliber.

"We're not asking them to win games by themselves," Stoops says. "We didn't ask Paul last year to win games by himself. We've shown we can play that way."

There's enough talent around the offense for the Sooners to play a quarterback with developing skills.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	5

» **Head Coach: Bob Stoops**
9th year (86-19) **Career Record:** 86-19

Official athletic Web site: www.soonersports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**North Texas**	
S. 8	**Miami (FL)**	
S. 15	**Utah State**	
S. 21	@TULSA	
S. 29	@COLORADO	24-3
O. 6	» **@TEXAS***	10-28
O. 13	**Missouri**	26-10
O. 20	@IOWA STATE	34-9
N. 3	**Texas A&M**	17-16
N. 10	**Baylor**	36-10
N. 17	@TEXAS TECH	34-24
N. 24	**Oklahoma State**	27-21

» GAME TO WATCH «

The winner doesn't always win the South, but most of the time it does.

** at Dallas, TX*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11
2005	8
2004	12
2003	12
2002	12

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **50/10**

» OFFENSE

QB	15	Joey Halzle (6-3, 208, Jr.)
RB	23	Allen Patrick (6-0, 191, Sr.)
FB	45	Dane Zaslaw (6-1, 237, Sr.)
LT	79	Phil Loadholt (6-8, 350, Jr.)
LG	72	Duke Robinson (6-5, 330, Jr.)
C	50	Jon Cooper (6-2, 285, Jr.)
RG	74	Brian Simmons (6-4, 293, So.)
RT	76	Branndon Braxton (6-6, 312, Jr.)
TE	19	Joe Jon Finley (6-6, 260, Sr.)
WR	4	Malcolm Kelly (6-4, 217, Jr.)
WR	1	Manuel Johnson (5-11, 177, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	91	Alonzo Dotson (6-4, 262, Sr.)
DT	96	DeMarcus Granger (6-3, 300, So.)
DT	97	Cory Bennett (6-2, 278, Jr.)
DE	98	John Williams (6-5, 259, Sr.)
SLB	16	Lewis Baker (6-2, 210, Sr.)
MLB	10	Mike Reed (6-1, 250, Jr.)
WLB	40	Curtis Lofton (6-0, 235, Jr.)
CB	3	Reggie Smith (6-1, 197, Jr.)
CB	24	Marcus Walker (5-11, 192, Sr.)
FS	5	Nic Harris (6-3, 226, Jr.)
SS	25	D.J. Wolfe (6-0, 196, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Garrett Hartley (5-9, 198, Sr.)
P	31	Michael Cohen (6-0, 295, Sr.)

JOHN WILLIAMSON

Running back again will be strong, even without Peterson. The Sooners have had practice operating without their injury-plagued running back. Last season, Peterson missed the final seven games of the regular season and Oklahoma rushed for more yards in those games than in the first half of the season.

Allen Patrick, back for his senior season, became the late-season workhorse and finished with 761 yards. Chris Brown got the carries Patrick didn't and wound up with 343 yards and six touchdowns. In his only start, Brown, a true freshman last year, went for 169 against Baylor.

But the talk of the spring was DeMarco Murray, who rushed for 103 yards in the spring game and drew this praise from Stoops: "He's got a lot of tools and a lot of talent."

The wide receivers also will take some heat off the quarterbacks. The top four return, starting with Malcolm Kelly, who caught 62 passes and 10 touchdowns last year. Also back are Manuel Johnson, Juaquin Iglesias and tight end Joe Jon Finley, one of the Big 12's best.

An experienced offensive line completes the cocoon around the quarterback. Four players who started the final seven games, when Oklahoma's running game was at its grinding best, are back. Get to know this group, because it's as good as there is in the Big 12: guards Duke Robinson, Brandon Walker and Brian Simmons; tackles Branndon Braxton, Trent Williams and Phil Loadholt; and center Jon Cooper. Loadholt, a juco transfer, figures to step in for the lone graduate, Chris Messner, at left tackle.

Again, defense will be an Oklahoma calling card. Six starters who helped the Sooners lead the Big 12 in scoring and total defense are back, but the departed ones were excellent, players like linebackers Rufus Alexander and Zach Latimer and linemen Larry Birdine and C.J. Ah You.

The strength starts in the backfield. The deep four seems set with Reggie Smith and Marcus Walker at the corners, D.J. Wolfe at strong safety and Nic Harris at free. Lendy Holmes, who started last year, is also a possibility at corner.

Redshirt freshman Dominque Franks moved from corner to safety in the spring and impressed coaches. He'll see plenty of action.

Linebacker is the unit with the least game experience, and the group took a hit in the spring when projected starter Ryan Reynolds blew out a knee. He should be ready for the season. Junior-college transfer Mike Reed brings a physical presence to the middle. Demarrio Pleasant and Lewis Baker will get looks at strongside, while Curtis Lofton will seek to impress at weakside.

The interior line is solid, with three of four in last year's rotation back. Steven Coleman, DeMarcus Granger and Cory Bennett will be joined by Gerald McCoy, who sat out last year as a redshirt.

Newcomers will fill the end roles. Alonzo Dotson showed promise last season and carried it into spring along with John Williams. But the Sooners are looking for more help.

Oklahoma should be in good shape with one of the biggest rules changes in years: kickoffs from the 30-yard line. Kicker Garrett Hartley, a Lou Groza Award finalist last year, has one of the nation's strongest legs. Return men Iglesias and Smith have brought back kicks for touchdowns and should get even more opportunities this season.

Two players who shared the punting duties, Michael Cohen and Mike Knall, are back, making Oklahoma solid once again in special teams.

Make that solid once again in everything except quarterback. But with the talent surrounding the position, the Sooners are good enough to be considered the Big 12 favorite and a national-championship contender.

THE NEXT BIG THING

PHIL LOADHOLT, OT

Has the perfect name for an offensive lineman. He sat out the second half of spring ball with a toe injury, but the 6-8, 350-pound junior-college transfer figures to make quite an impression.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Sooners closed strong in the final days before the NCAA Signing Day (Feb. 7) and posted the nation's No. 13-ranked recruiting class by *Street & Smith's*.

There are several headliners, but none any bigger than junior-college linebacker **Mike Reed** (6-1, 250) from California, who could be in the starting lineup this season. Reed was ranked the No. 1 defensive prospect in the juco ranks last season.

Besides Reed, an intriguing juco transfer is massive offensive lineman **Phil Loadholt** (6-8, 350).

On the high school front, the Sooners landed quarterback **Keith Nichol** (6-1, 185), the Michigan Player of the Year, as well as two in-state prep All-Americans in linebacker/safety **Austin Box** (6-3, 215) and national-record-setting placekicker **Jimmy Stevens** (5-6, 175).

Other promising in-state recruits are linebacker/defensive end **Jontae Bumpus** (6-4, 225) and defensive back **Ryan Broyles** (5-11, 180) from nearby Norman High.

The Sooners recruited Louisiana well and signed defensive end **Frank Alexander** (6-5, 230), wide receiver **Tyler Stradford** and offensive lineman **Alex Williams** (6-6, 285) from the Bayou State.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OKLAHOMA	OPP
SCORING	424	242
Points Per Game	30.3	17.3
FIRST DOWNS	257	209
Rushing	110	85
Passing	131	116
Penalty	16	8
RUSHING YARDAGE	2480	1382
Yards gained rushing	2740	1820
Yards lost rushing	260	438
Rushing Attempts	557	424
Average Per Rush	4.5	3.3
Average Per Game	177.1	98.7
TDs Rushing	25	10
PASSING YARDAGE	2682	2638
Att-Comp-Int	205-11	434-225-18
Average Per Pass	7.9	6.1
Average Per Catch	13.1	11.7
Average Per Game	191.6	188.4
TDs Passing	22	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5162	4020
Total Plays	897	858
Average Per Play	5.8	4.7
Average Per Game	368.7	287.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	37-844	49-853
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	38-299	20-83
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-223	11-132
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	22.8	17.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.9	4.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	12.4	12.0
FUMBLES-LOST	33-22	23-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	69-521	77-579
Average Per Game	37.2	41.4
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2460	85-3409
Average Per Punt	39.7	40.1
Net punt average	36.7	36.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:38	29:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	71/177	58/192
3rd-Down Pct	40%	30%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/11	10/22
4th-Down Pct	64%	45%
SACKS BY-YARDS	26-203	16-106
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	52	29
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19-20	12-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	49-50 98%	28-28 100%
ATTENDANCE	587397	281051
Games/Avg Per Game	7/83914	5/56210
Neutral Site Games		2/74990

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oklahoma	130	82	119	86	7	424
Opponents	68	54	47	65	8	242

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Paul Thompson

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
14	142.45	336-204-11	60.7	2667	22	190.5

Joey Halzle

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	113.00	2-1-0	50.0	15	0	7.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Adrian Peterson	7	188	1012	5.4	12	144.6
Allen Patrick	12	169	761	4.5	4	63.4
Chris Brown	5	70	343	4.9	6	68.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Malcolm Kelly	14	62	993	16.0	10	70.9
Juaquin Iglesias	14	41	514	12.5	2	36.7
Manuel Johnson	12	36	378	10.5	3	31.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Rufus Alexander	14	75	43	118
Zach Latimer	14	44	40	84
Nic Harris	14	40	28	68

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
C.J. Ah You	14	4.0	42
Rufus Alexander	14	3.5	25
Steven Coleman	14	3.0	38

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Nic Harris	4	11	2.8	0
Zach Latimer	3	23	7.7	1
Reggie Smith	3	94	31.3	1

TOP 25 SELECTION

#2 TEXAS LONGHORNS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 10-3 » **Big 12 South: 6-2** *(beat Iowa in the Alamo Bowl, 26-24)*

Austin **Stadium:** Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (85,123) **Tickets:** 800-982-BEVO

QB › Colt McCoy

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Mack Brown**
10th year (93-22) **Career Record:** 179-96-1

Official athletic Web site: www.texassports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Arkansas State**	
S. 8	**TCU**	
S. 15	@UCF	
S. 22	**Rice**	52-7
S. 29	**Kansas State**	42-45
O. 6	» **OKLAHOMA***	28-10
O. 13	@IOWA STATE	37-14
O. 20	@BAYLOR	63-31
O. 27	**Nebraska**	22-20
N. 3	@OKLAHOMA STATE	36-10
N. 10	**Texas Tech**	35-31
N. 23	@TEXAS A&M	7-12

» GAME TO WATCH «

See Oklahoma.

** at Dallas, TX*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10
2005	13
2004	11
2003	10
2002	11

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Letteren returning/lost: **46/15**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Colt McCoy (6-3, 208, r-So.)
TB	25	Jamaal Charles (6-1, 200, Jr.)
FB	49	Luke Tiemann (6-2, 235, r-Sr.)
LT	79	Tony Hills (6-6, 305, Sr.)
LG	71	Chris Hall (6-4, 295, So.)
C	67	Dallas Griffin (6-4, 285, r-Sr.)
RG	55	Cedric Dockery (6-4, 320, Jr.)
RT	74	Adam Ulatoski (6-8, 300, So.)
TE	16	Jermichael Finley (6-5, 236, So.)
SE	4	Limas Sweed (6-5, 219, r-Sr.)
FL	5	Billy Pittman (6-0, 200, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	98	Brian Orakpo (6-4, 248, Jr.)
NT	96	Derek Lokey (6-2, 280, Sr.)
DT	97	Frank Okam (6-5, 320, Sr.)
DE	95	Aaron Lewis (6-4, 260, Jr.)
SLB	40	Robert Killebrew (6-2, 230, r-Sr.)
MLB	44	Rashad Bobino (5-11, 228, Jr.)
WLB	33	Scott Derry (6-3, 230, r-Sr.)
LCB	28	Brandon Foster (5-9, 180, r-Sr.)
RCB	7	Deon Beasley (5-10, 170, So.)
FS	26	Marcus Griffin (6-0, 202, r-Sr.)
SS	21	Erick Jackson (6-2, 200, r-Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Ryan Bailey (6-2, 195, Jr.)
P	17	Trevor Gerland (6-2, 190, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Lively Colt is the real McCoy, so Longhorns like the all of the possibilities for 2007

Sometimes traditionally powerful programs re-arrive, and this is how we know Texas is one of those programs.

The Longhorns finished 10-3 last season, ranked 13th in the wire-service polls, won their bowl game and the fans shrugged.

Texas has reached the point where it should compete for the national championship every year and anything less than Big 12 championships and BCS bowl games brings a tone of disappointment.

It could be argued Texas has always been this kind of place, but it hadn't backed up its ambition with a championship since the days of Darrell Royal. The program was touting its nine-victory seasons and consistent presence in the polls, and all that was nice.

But winning the national championship in 2005 elevated Texas to an exalted status, past Oklahoma as the Big 12's bellcow program. Yes, the Sooners won the league championship last year—but they lost to Texas.

This season, Texas begins the season with more question marks than it did entering 2006. The offensive line lost three studs, the secondary is rebuilt and the running game must be retooled.

But in quarterback Colt McCoy the Longhorns have an exclamation point.

Texas created an offensive environment that gave McCoy every opportunity to succeed as he entered his redshirt-freshman season and McCoy delivered. Here's the short list of accomplishments:

- Big 12 Offensive Freshman and Newcomer of the Year.
- Alamo Bowl Offensive MVP
- Texas freshman-record 10 victories as a starting quarterback.
- Matched the NCAA freshman record with 29 touchdown passes.

"He grasped the offense right away," says McCoy's favorite receiving target, Limas Sweed. "I remember when I was as a redshirt freshman, and he was so far ahead of me."

McCoy wasn't guaranteed starting until beating out Jevan Snead, and he was among the nation's most poked and prodded players entering 2006. How could McCoy possibility fill the shoes of national-title hero Vince Young?

It's not a stretch to declare McCoy was as valuable to the 2006 'Horns as Young was to the 2005 club.

We know this by what happened at Kansas State. McCoy's right shoulder lost a battle with a Wildcats linebacker on a touchdown keeper and the QB was lost for the game. Kansas State pulled off the stunner. In the Longhorns' other two losses, McCoy was starting for the second time against Ohio State and he carried the K-State injury into Texas A&M.

McCoy returns this season bigger and stronger. He finished spring ball at 208 pounds and drew this post-spring praise from Mack Brown.

"He looked as good as I've ever seen him," Brown says. "He's even more accurate in his passing, if that's possible."

Hardly, it seems. McCoy completed 68.2 percent of his throws last year.

"He has a chance to be very special," Brown says.

So do the wide receivers. Sweed passed up a shot at the NFL Draft to become a four-year starter. He carved out an All-Big 12 season with 46 receptions for 801 yards and 12 touchdowns and carries the size (6-5, 219 pounds) to dominate.

Also back are the next three top receivers: Quan Cosby, Billy Pittman and Jermichael Finley, who is coming off the best season for a rookie tight end in school history.

"We believe this is the best group of receivers we have ever had," Brown says.

BRIAN RAY / ICON SMI

Now comes improving the running game. Texas went from a breakaway team with Young and Cedric Benson to a hard-nosed, but limited, attack. In seven of the last nine games—Big 12 action and the bowl game—the Longhorns averaged fewer than four yards per carry.

Texas should be better, if only because it won't split carries. Jamaal Charles will get the bulk of them and he was the team's most productive runner last year with 831 yards and a 5.3 average.

"We want Jamaal to show us he can run tougher, break tackles and be consistent," Brown says.

One sign of Charles' dedication: A champion sprinter, he didn't run indoor track last spring as he did the year before.

The offensive line got plenty of offseason attention with the loss of three players who started at least 26 straight games, including All-America tackle Justin Blalock. A foundation of guard Cedric Dockery and tackles Tony Hills and Adam Ulatoski returns.

Dockery started the first six games before missing the second half of last season with a knee injury. Hills is a converted tight end who started last season at left tackle. Ulatoski was named Freshman All-America.

Senior Dallas Griffin is poised to take over for Lyle Sendlein at center. Chris Hall and Charlie Tanner are newcomers at guard. They'll all be blocking for a shotgun offense.

Gene Chizik is gone as defensive coordinator to try and restore fortunes at Iowa State as the new head coach. And stars like safety Michael Griffin, cornerback Aaron Ross and end Tim Crowder have moved on to the next level.

But the guts of the defense—tackles and linebackers—return, and that's good news for a team that stuffed the run about as well as anybody last year.

Texas surrendered a mere 61.2 rushing yards and 2.3 yards per carry a game and eight total rushing touchdowns a year ago. Tackle Derek Lokey is a name to remember. Texas had 28 sacks in the seven games Lokey played. After he broke his fibula against Nebraska, the sack production dropped to two per game.

Lokey's return takes some pressure off the other starting tackle, Frank Okam, who missed spring drills after January knee surgery.

Linebacker starters Rashad Bobino, Robert Killebrew and Scott Derry were pushed by younger talent in Jared Norton, Sergio Kindle and Rod Muckelroy during the spring.

The defensive backfield got plenty of attention in the spring, and for good reason. For all the individual accolades, pass defense was a weakness last season. Of course, it's not all on the secondary, but the last line of defense gets blamed for having the nation's 99th-ranked pass defense last year.

The lone returning starter is safety Marcus Griffin, Michael's twin brother, but another veteran, Drew Kelson, could start at free safety after spending the previous two years at linebacker.

"In the secondary we have a veteran group and a young group," Brown says. "We could possibly play two-deep in the secondary. ... We'll look at that closely."

Kicker Ryan Bailey had a moment that will live in Texas lore. A walk-on from Austin, the first attempt of his career was a 22-yard game-winner at Nebraska in swirling snow. He went on to have a near-perfect season, missing one extra point. Cosby is one of the nation's most dangerous return specialists.

THE NEXT BIG THING

CURTIS BROWN and BEN WELLS, DBs

Two freshmen who looked good during spring practice and could be part of an eight-player rotation in a secondary that's lost five players to the NFL Draft over the past two seasons.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Longhorns continue to get their pick of much of the high school talent in the Lone Star State.

And the 2007 recruiting class, ranked No. 5 nationally by *Street & Smith's*, is no different.

Texas had 19 of its 24 recruits in the verbal-commitment hopper before the 2006 season started. Early evaluation has paid off for the Longhorns, especially with the 23 in-state prospects in the current recruiting class.

The lone non-Texas prep recruit is tight end/defensive end **Blaine Irby** (6-2, 230) from Ventura, Calif.

The in-state crop is led by prep All-America offensive lineman **Tray Allen** (6-4, 305), who was rated by some analysts as Texas' top overall prospect. Allen is athletic enough to play any of the line positions and could see time as a true freshman.

Two skill-position players also received national attention: defensive back **Curtis Brown** (6-0, 175) and versatile **John Chiles** (6-1, 195), who might be tested at multiple positions.

The lone quarterback among the newcomers is **G.J. Kinne** (6-2, 210), who passed for 3,216 yards and 47 touchdowns as a high school senior.

Two defensive linemen should attract some attention from the coaches this fall: **Andre Jones** (6-4, 305) and **Michael Wilcoxon** (6-2, 275). Jones was a prep All-American, while Wilcoxon could be a future player to watch.

The most heralded offensive lineman is All-Stater **Michael Huey** (6-6, 290).

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	TEXAS	OPP
SCORING	467	238
Points Per Game	35.9	18.3
FIRST DOWNS	284	201
Rushing	126	53
Passing	126	129
Penalty	32	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2114	795
Yards gained rushing	2374	1290
Yards lost rushing	260	495
Rushing Attempts	483	345
Average Per Rush	4.4	2.3
Average Per Game	162.6	61.2
TDs Rushing	24	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2975	3071
Att-Comp-Int	371-244-9	410-239-13
Average Per Pass	8.0	7.5
Average Per Catch	12.2	12.8
Average Per Game	228.8	236.2
TDs Passing	31	21
TOTAL OFFENSE	5089	3866
Total Plays	854	755
Average Per Play	6.0	5.1
Average Per Game	391.5	297.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	26-603	51-994
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-362	21-100
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-110	9-66
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.2	19.5
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	12.9	4.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.5	7.3
FUMBLES-LOST	25-14	29-19
PENALTIES-YARDS	72-661	113-850
Average Per Game	50.8	65.4
PUNTS-YARDS	53-2112	74-2882
Average Per Punt	39.8	38.9
Net punt average	38.0	34.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:05	28:55
3RD-DOWN CONV.	65/156	62/170
3rd-Down Pct	42%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/16	5/12
4th-Down Pct	69%	42%
SACKS BY-YARDS	38-306	19-136
MISC YARDS	81	49
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	63	31
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-12	8-11
PAT-ATTEMPTS	60-62	28-29
ATTENDANCE	619534	229347
Games/Avg Per Game	7/88505	4/57337
Neutral Site Games		2/71068

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Texas	91	170	111	95	467
Opponents	79	51	62	46	238

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Colt McCoy	13	161.82	318-217-7	68.2	2570	29	233.5
Jevan Snead	8	121.97	49-26-2	53.1	371	2	3.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jamaal Charles	12	156	831	5.3	7	80.8
Selvin Young	12	137	591	4.3	7	67.5
Henry Melton	13	45	193	4.3	6	39.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Limas Sweed	13	46	801	17.4	12	47.2
Quan Cosby	13	45	525	11.7	2	41.9
Billy Pittman	13	35	456	13.0	4	57.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Michael Griffin	13	79	47	126
Marcus Griffin	11	54	36	90
Aaron Ross	13	59	21	80

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Tim Crowder	13	10.5	66
Brian Robinson	12	5.5	47
Brian Orakpo	13	4.5	28

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Aaron Ross	6	7	1.2	0
Michael Griffin	4	41	10.2	0
Matt Melton	1	34	34.0	1

#3 OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 7-6 » **Big 12 South:** 3-5 *(beat Alabama in the Independence Bowl, 34-31)*

Stillwater **Stadium:** Boone Pickens Stadium (48,000) **Tickets:** 405-744-5745

WR › Adarius Bowman

With offense galore, Cowboys are a defense away from making some noise in South

The difference between a glowing outlook about 2007, which is what Oklahoma State has, and a wait-and-see feeling is three points.

A field goal separated the Cowboys from Alabama in last season's Independence Bowl, specifically Jason Ricks' 27-yarder with eight seconds remaining for a 34-31 triumph.

It was a battle of 6-6 teams, but the win gave Oklahoma State a springboard toward this season. Don't think such bowl victories matter? Ask Texas, which credits beating Michigan in the previous year's Rose Bowl as a launch for the Longhorns' 2005 national championship.

Or Nebraska, which knocked off the same Wolverines a season later, helping provide the Cornhuskers confidence for their first division-title run in seven years.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» KEITH TOSTON, RB

He doesn't get much time behind Dantrell Savage, but Toston rushed for 631 yards as a freshman and the Cowboys won't fall off one yard when he's in the game.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Dez Bryant, WR, 6-1, 195** — *Touted Texas product could play soon.*
2. **Richetti Jones, DE, 6-3, 235** — *Another Lone Star State standout.*
3. **William Cole, ATH, 5-11, 170** — *Prep quarterback for state champs.*
4. **Tonga Tea, DL, 6-1, 305** — *Junior-college prospect has skills.*
5. **Damien Davis, WR, 6-5, 185** — *Big pass-receiving target will get a look early on.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	3

The finishing touch to 2006 felt so good because most of the main players are back, and Oklahoma State believes it should have one of the better offenses in the game.

The Cowboys joined Boise State last season as the only programs to average at least 200 yards passing and rushing per game. There's no reason why that shouldn't continue, not with players like running back Dantrell Savage and wide receiver Adarius Bowman.

Injuries got Savage off to a slow start, with 114 yards in his first five games. But he became a beast in the second half of the season and finished with 820 yards and a 6.5-yard average. His 112 rushing yards in the Independence Bowl earned him MVP honors.

And the fortunate thing for the Cowboys is there's another good one right behind him in Keith Toston, who added 631 yards last season.

Bowman could be an All-American. He's a big-play receiver who averaged 19.7 yards on his 60 receptions. To keep defenses honest, a second receiving threat will need to emerge. Look for Jeremy Broadway and Artrell Woods to become those players.

Bobby Reid is back at quarterback. He grew more comfortable in the position last year and wound up with some solid numbers: 2,266 passing yards, 24 touchdowns and 11 interceptions, while rushing for more than 500 yards. The knock on Reid was that he played much better at home than on the road.

If Oklahoma State is going to take the next step, perhaps even become a division contender, the defense must improve. Last year, the Cowboys ranked in the league's bottom half in all major defensive categories. In the program's two best victories—Nebraska and Alabama—OSU had to win by keeping a better scoring pace. Three times opponents racked up at least 500 total yards.

One of the problems was that two freshmen led the team in tackles—cornerback Andre Sexton and linebacker Patrick Lavine. Senior linebacker Jeremy Nethon was the Independence Bowl's defensive MVP with 11 tackles. The Cowboys added strength to the defense by moving former QB Donovan Woods to free safety.

» Head Coach: Mike Gundy
3rd year (11-13) **Career Record:** 11-13

Official athletic Web site: www.okstate.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@GEORGIA	
S. 8	**Florida Atlantic**	48-8
S. 14	@TROY	
S. 22	**Texas Tech**	24-30
S. 29	**Sam Houston State**	
O. 6	» @TEXAS A&M	33-34 (OT)
O. 13	@NEBRASKA	41-29
O. 20	**Kansas State**	27-31
N. 3	**Texas**	10-36
N. 10	**Kansas**	42-32
N. 17	@BAYLOR	66-24
N. 24	@OKLAHOMA	21-27

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

If the Cowboys are going to start moving up the ladder, they have to climb over the ones in front of them—like the Aggies.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7	ⓒ
2005	4	
2004	7	ⓒ
2003	9	ⓒ ⓑ
2002	8	ⓒ ⓑ

ⓒ CONFERENCE TITLE ⓑ BOWL ⓝ NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **18**
Lettermen returning/lost: **45/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	14	Bobby Reid (6-3, 235, Jr.)
RB	22	Dantrell Savage (5-9, 195, Sr.)
FB	33	John Johnson (6-1, 255, Jr.)
LT	76	Russell Okung (6-5, 290, So.)
LG	54	Andrew Lewis (6-5, 295, So.)
C	63	David Washington (6-3, 305, Jr.)
RG	65	Steve Denning (6-5, 300, Jr.)
RT	61	David Koenig (6-5, 290, Sr.)
TE	87	Brandon Pettigrew (6-6, 260, Jr.)
WR	83	Artrell Woods (6-1, 185, So.)
WR	12	Adarius Bowman (6-4, 220, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	97	Marque Fountain (6-2, 260, Sr.)
NT	96	Jeray Chatham (6-3, 280, Jr.)
DT	56	Maurice Cummings (6-4, 265, Sr.)
DE	13	Nathan Peterson (6-2, 240, Sr.)
OLB	19	Jeremy Nethon (6-0, 225, Sr.)
MLB	2	Rodrick Johnson (6-3, 250, Sr.)
OLB	4	Patrick Lavine (6-3, 220, So.)
CB	17	Jacob Lacey (5-11, 175, Jr.)
CB	7	Martel Van Zant (6-1, 210, Sr.)
FS	8	Donovan Woods (6-2, 225, Sr.)
SS	20	Andre Sexton (6-1, 210, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	18	Matt Fodge (6-1, 195, Jr.)
P	85	Jason Ricks (6-2, 200, Jr.)

DOUGLAS JONES / ICON SMI

TEXAS A&M AGGIES

#4
PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-4 » **Big 12 South: 5-3** *(lost to California in the Holiday Bowl, 45-10)*

Stadium: Kyle Field (82,600) **Tickets:** 979-845-2311 **College Station, Texas**

» **Head Coach: Dennis Franchione**
5th year (25-22) **Career Record:** 100-77 (Division I-A)

Official athletic Web site: www.aggieathletics.com

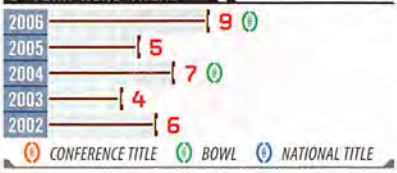
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Montana State**	
S. 8	**Fresno State**	
S. 15	**Louisiana-Monroe**	
S. 20	@MIAMI (FL)	
S. 29	**Baylor**	31-21
O. 6	**Oklahoma State**	34-33 (OT)
O. 13	» **@TEXAS TECH**	27-31
O. 20	@NEBRASKA	27-28
O. 27	**Kansas**	21-18
N. 3	@OKLAHOMA	16-17
N. 10	@MISSOURI	25-19
N. 23	**Texas**	12-7

››› GAME TO WATCH ‹‹‹

The Red Raiders have been a royal pain to the Aggies.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Letterment returning/lost: **47/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Stephen McGee (6-3, 215, Jr.)
TB	11	Jorvorskie Lane (6-0, 263, Jr.)
FB	24	Chris Alexander (5-11, 348, Sr.)
LT	71	Yemi Babalola (6-4, 308, Jr.)
LG	64	Kirk Elder (6-5, 307, Sr.)
C	70	Cody Wallace (6-4, 294, Sr.)
RG	51	Chris Yoder (6-3, 303, Sr.)
RT	54	Corey Clark (6-6, 309, Sr.)
TE	13	Martellus Bennett (6-7, 253, Jr.)
WR	8	Kerry Franks (5-11, 196, Sr.)
WR	2	Earvin Taylor (6-3, 228, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	92	Chris Harrington (6-5, 265, Sr.)
NT	95	Henry Smith (6-3, 307, Sr.)
DT	85	Red Bryant (6-5, 324, Sr.)
DE	49	Cyril Obiozor (6-5, 257, Jr.)
SLB	50	Mark Dodge (6-2, 222, Sr.)
MLB	37	Misi Tupe (5-10, 253, Sr.)
WHIP	25	Jordan Pugh (6-0, 190, So.)
CB	4	Danny Gorrer (6-0, 181, Jr.)
CB	27	Jordan Peterson (5-10, 188, So.)
FS	26	Devin Gregg (6-0, 196, Jr.)
SS	9	Alton Dixon (5-11, 207, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	7	Matt Szymanski (6-1, 193, So.)
P	16	Justin Brantly (6-4, 223, Jr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

Franchione looking to add some finesse to Aggies' smashmouth offensive arsenal

Can one game change everything? Perhaps. Texas A&M's triumph at Texas to end the regular season didn't put the Aggies in the Big 12 Championship Game, but it kept the Longhorns out of it. It didn't create momentum for a bowl game. The Aggies got crushed by Cal in the Holiday Bowl.

But winning at Austin righted plenty of wrongs, not the least of which was the Aggies' six-game losing streak to Texas.

What it also proved was how good A&M could be if it did the things Coach Dennis Franchione has wanted since arriving four seasons ago. That day, the Aggies used a power running game to roll over a defense leading the nation in rushing defense at the time. On the other side of the ball, they played the brand of defense that made the "Wrecking Crew" famous.

"I was very proud of the way this team responded after last year," Franchione said, referring to the Aggies' 5-6 finish in 2005.

So, if you looked at last season through maroon-colored glasses, forget about the three home defeats, the narrow escapes with Kansas and Army. Beating Texas made things all right.

Now it's time to build and, with 16 starters returning, the Aggies have the goods to take another step.

"We're setting the bar high, and we're excited about our future," junior quarterback Stephen McGee says.

McGee is a good place to start. He guided an offense that developed into a smashmouth, clock-chewing unit and led the Big 12 in time of possession. He threw for nearly 2,300 yards and rushed for 666 last season.

If Franchione has his way, McGee will become a more effective thrower. The numbers were good enough last year, as he completed a school-record 62 percent of his passes with only two interceptions and 12 touchdowns. But the Aggies would like to see McGee not automatically tuck it and run when the first receiver isn't available.

"As he pulls the ball down and moves around in the pocket, he still saw [alternate targets]," Franchione says. "Last year, he pretty much made up his mind to go."

McGee says he feared taking a sack and that he's learning it's possible to buy a little more time in the pocket.

But a better passing game would be a bonus because A&M leads with an NFL-like running attack.

Two powerful backs—Jorvorskie Lane and Mike Goodson—shape the personality of this offense. Lane is a load at 6-foot and 263 pounds. He found the end zone 19 times last season. A&M came up with this stat: Lane produced a touchdown or first down on 26 of his 29 carries on third or fourth down last season. Goodson is the slasher who led the Aggies with 847 yards as a freshman.

Martellus Bennett dropped his pursuit of two sports when he quit basketball and should be one of the league's top tight ends. The Aggies will look to get the ball in the hands of wide receiver Kerry Franks, who averaged 26.5 yards on 10 receptions.

Two offensive linemen who received all-conference honors—center Cody Wallace and guard Kirk Elder—are back, and one of the league's top units should keep the Aggies near the top of the charts in time of possession.

New Defensive Coordinator Gary Darnell made a difference. A&M switched to a 4-2-5 and, now that the transition year is in the books, the Aggies want to add wrinkles to the scheme. Senior linebacker Mark Dodge emerged as one of the team's top playmakers last year. The big news in the spring was the play of cornerback Arkeith Brown and safety Jordan Pugh.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **KERRY FRANKS, WR**

A fleet receiver who's even more dangerous as a return specialist. He can build on his league-best 27.7-yard kickoff-return average now that the tee has been moved back to the 30.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Bradley Stephens, RB, 5-10, 185**
   Rushed for nearly 8,000 yards as a prep.
2. **Derrick Stephens, LB, 6-3, 225**
   Scouts have him rated very high.
3. **Von Miller, DE, 6-3, 215**
   Could emerge as best in 2007 class.
4. **Ryan Tannehill, QB, 6-4, 195**
   A rangy prospect with running skills.
5. **Brandon Joiner, DE, 6-3, 225**
   Another promising defender of the future.

Lubbock » 2006 Record: 8-5 » Big 12 South: 4-4

(beat Minnesota in the Insight Bowl, 44-41 in OT)

LOWER-TIER BOWL

#5 » TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

PRESEASON RANK

For the minor bowl-game-as-meaningless-exhibitions crowd, we submit Texas Tech's 2006 postseason experience.

The Red Raiders trailed Minnesota by four touchdowns at halftime of the Insight Bowl, then fell behind by 31 early in the third quarter.

But never count out Tech and its spread offense. The Red Raiders scored the final 31 in regulation and won in overtime, sending Tech to a celebration and Minnesota Coach Glen Mason to the unemployment line.

Back from that crazy night are 14 returning starters, including quarterback Graham Harrell. This marks the first season since 2002 that Tech returns its starting quarterback.

Not that it's mattered. Everybody who has taken the spread-formation snap has produced for Coach Mike Leach. Harrell led the Big 12 in passing yards and touchdown passes last year, but he wasn't the most impressive quarterback in Tech's final spring scrimmage. That was Taylor Potts, a redshirt freshman who played well enough to make fall practice interesting.

Other revelations came out of spring ball. Michael Crabtree looks to be the program's next big-play wide receiver, and Shannon Woods, who figured to be the starting tailback, was dropped to second team behind Kobey Lewis.

But the biggest movement was on the coaching staff. Assistant Jack Bicknell Jr., who became Tech's offensive line coach in January and helped land several top-notch recruits, left for Boston College in late April.

Through it all, Tech expects to be back in the bowl picture. The Red Raiders have been bowl-eligible for 14 straight seasons, the most of any Big 12 program.

The defense has improved over the past few years under coordinator Lyle Setencich.

Head Coach: Mike Leach
8th year (56-33)
Career Record: 56-33
Stadium: Jones AT&T Stadium
Tickets: 806-742-TECH
Capacity: 52,882
Official athletic Web site:
www.texastech.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8
2005	9
2004	8
2003	8
2002	9

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 3	@SMU	35-3
S. 8	**UTEP**	38-35 (OT)
S. 15	@RICE	
S. 22	@OKLAHOMA STATE	30-24
S. 29	**Northwestern State**	
O. 6	**Iowa State**	42-26
O. 13	**Texas A&M**	31-27
O. 20	@MISSOURI	21-38
O. 27	**Colorado**	6-30
N. 3	@BAYLOR	55-21
N. 10	@TEXAS	31-35
N. 17	**Oklahoma**	24-34

GAME TO WATCH

An early Big 12 showdown will keep the winner in the division race.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **49/15**

OFFENSE

QB	6	Graham Harrell (6-3, 197, Jr.)
RB	21	Kobey Lewis (5-6, 173, So.)
LT	67	Marlon Winn (6-5, 324, So.)
LG	65	Louis Vasquez (6-6, 341, Jr.)
C	64	Shawn Byrnes (6-3, 317, So.)
RG	60	Brandon Carter (6-6, 356, So.)
RT	74	Rylan Reed (6-6, 285, Jr.)
WR	20	Danny Amendola (5-11, 177, Sr.)
WR	19	Grant Walker (6-0, 189, Sr.)
WR	4	Todd Walker (6-1, 178, Jr.)
WR	27	Edward Britton (6-0, 177, So.)

DEFENSE

LE	98	Jake Ratliff (6-8, 250, Jr.)
NT	91	Rajon Henley (6-3, 258, So.)
DT	97	Richard Jones (6-2, 285, So.)
RE	84	Brandon Williams (6-3, 243, So.)
SLB	56	Kellen Tillman (6-2, 240, Sr.)
MLB	48	Paul Williams (6-1, 221, Sr.)
WLB	54	Chad Hill (6-1, 229, Sr.)
LCB	3	Jamar Wall (5-10, 194, So.)
RCB	17	Chris Parker (5-10, 178, Sr.)
FS	7	Darcel McBath (6-1, 196, Jr.)
SS	49	Joe Garcia (6-1, 217, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	30	Alex Trlica (5-11, 176, Sr.)
P	82	Grant Berg (6-5, 198, Jr.)

Waco, Texas » 2006 Record: 4-8 » Big 12 South: 3-5

#6 » BAYLOR BEARS

PRESEASON RANK

Everybody would prefer the leaps-and-bounds kind, but improvement at Baylor must be appreciated in smaller measures.

In 2005, the Bears won five games, their high-water mark in league play.

Last season, Baylor won three league games, also a best effort. One of them came at Colorado, giving the program its second road victory as a Big 12 school.

To keep it going, Baylor must make it work with a new quarterback and sixth other new offensive starters.

Running the second-year spread attack will be Kent State transfer Michael Machen, who has had an interesting career.

Machen is 26 and pitched in the Atlanta Braves organization for three years before the Mobile, Ala., native enrolled at Alabama. He didn't play for the Tide and transferred to Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College, where he passed for more than 2,000 yards for a 10-2 team. From there, it was off to Kent State and what looked like a promising Division I-A career when he surpassed 2,000 yards as a sophomore.

But Kent switched to a run-oriented attack, and Machen again looked elsewhere. An NCAA rule allowed Machen to graduate and transfer without losing eligibility, and that's how he wound up in Waco.

One thing's for sure: Machen won't get all of the snaps. Baylor did that last year with Shawn Bell, who set plenty of school records. But when he went down late in the season with an injury, reserve Blake Szymanski didn't have enough game experience to feel comfortable and the Bears lost any chance of a late triumph.

On defense, linebacker Joe Pawelek took full advantage of his playing time as a freshman and led the Bears with 86 tackles. Baylor returns eight of its top 10 tacklers.

The biggest loss is punter Daniel Sepulveda, the nation's best in the past two seasons.

Head Coach: Guy Morriss
5th year (15-31)
Career Record: 24-45
Stadium: Floyd Casey Stadium
Tickets: 800-BAYLOR-U
Capacity: 50,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.baylorbears.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4
2005	5
2004	3
2003	3
2002	3

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@TCU	7-17
S. 8	**Rice**	
S. 15	**Texas State**	
S. 22	@BUFFALO	
S. 29	@TEXAS A&M	21-31
O. 6	**Colorado**	34-31 (OT)
O. 13	@KANSAS	36-35
O. 20	**Texas**	31-63
O. 27	@KANSAS STATE	17-3
N. 3	**Texas Tech**	21-55
N. 10	@OKLAHOMA	10-36
N. 17	**Oklahoma State**	24-66

GAME TO WATCH

The opener will indicate whether the Bears are capable of a bowl season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **11**
Lettermen returning/lost: **42/34**

OFFENSE

QB	7	Michael Machen (6-6, 237, Sr.)
RB	2	Brandon Whitaker (5-10, 197, Sr.)
LT	72	Jason Smith (6-5, 288, Jr.)
LG	71	Dan Gay (6-5, 311, Jr.)
C	55	J.D. Walton (6-2, 322, So.)
RG	70	Chad Smith (6-6, 280, Sr.)
RT	74	Thad Boatner (6-7, 289, So.)
WR	21	Thomas White (6-2, 206, Jr.)
WR	13	Ernest Smith (6-3, 186, So.)
WR	82	Justin Akers (6-5, 237, So.)
WR	18	Brad Taylor (6-3, 232, r-Fr.)

DEFENSE

LE	88	Jason Lamb (6-6, 253, So.)
NT	97	Trey Bryant (6-3, 310, So.)
DT	91	Vincent Rhodes (6-2, 302, Jr.)
RE	57	Geoff Nelson (6-2, 260, Sr.)
MLB	41	Joe Pawelek (6-2, 231, So.)
WLB	44	Nick Moore (6-1, 226, Sr.)
S	4	Jeremy Williams (5-10, 204, So.)
CB	2	Josh Bell (6-0, 168, Sr.)
CB	20	Alton Widemon (5-11, 178, Sr.)
FS	21	Jordan Lake (6-2, 209, So.)
ROV	1	Dwain Crawford (6-0, 208, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	20	Caleb Allen (6-0, 169, Jr.)
P	20	Caleb Allen (6-0, 169, Jr.)

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. If Houston's Anthony Alridge gets enough touches—and turns enough into scores—he could wind up as a darkhorse candidate in the Heisman Trophy race. Alridge, moved from receiver to running back during the course of last season, averaged 10.1 yards per rushing attempt. Players from BCS leagues monopolize the Heisman nowadays, but anybody who averages a first down per carry deserves to be in the mix.

2. College football is in the midst of a facilities arms race. Stadium upgrades by UCF and Tulsa will give the (formerly Golden) Knights and Golden Hurricane a legitimate chance to elevate their programs. UCF is breaking in a new stadium this season, while Tulsa announced an $18 million renovation of Skelly Stadium.

3. This year or next, someone from a C-USA team will win the John Mackey Award, presented annually to the nation's best tight end. This is a tight end league. Two years ago, Tulsa's Garrett Mills set NCAA receiving records at the position. Southern Miss' Shawn Nelson and Marshall's Cody Slate have the potential to be great.

4. This is the year the slipper doesn't fit. Each of the last two seasons, a team picked to finish last in a C-USA division reached a bowl game. Tulane and UAB are too far down to make that kind of a jump this season, which means that Green Wave running back Matt Forté may continue to be one of the league's best-kept secrets.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Donnie Avery, Houston

BEST HANDS
Jarett Dillard, WR, Rice

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Justin Willis, SMU

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Chase Clement, Rice

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Anthony Alridge, Houston

BEST INSTINCTS
Cody Slate, TE, Marshall

BEST ATHLETE
Anthony Alridge, RB, Houston

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Paul Smith, QB, Tulsa

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Albert McClellan, DE, Marshall

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Alphonso Bryant, DB, UCF

HARDEST HITTER
Rocky Schwartz, DB, Houston

CONFERENCE USA

www.conferenceusa.com

C-USA has its share of story lines heading into '07

By **JIMMIE TRAMEL**, *Tulsa World*

The reconfigured version of Conference USA is in its third year of existence and here's what we know:

▸ When C-USA was being populated with teams from other leagues, it appeared that the balance of power tilted strongly toward the East Division. Five teams went bowling the year before the conference was redone and four hailed from the East. Instead, the West has reigned supreme. Each of the last two C-USA champions (Houston and Tulsa) was from the league's West Division. It goes deeper than that. West Division teams went 11-7 against East Division squads last season.

▸ Want to make a big jump up the Conference USA ladder? Emphasize defense. No C-USA team ranked below 100th nationally in total offense last season. But half of the league's teams ranked below 100 in scoring defense and total defense. Is it any wonder that Southern Miss, which places a premium on defense, is always among the league's best teams?

▸ The league has a revolving door scheduling format and the door will turn for the first time. Teams from the East and West play every team in their respective divisions, as well as three crossover games against teams from the other division. After two years of home-and-home crossover games, the dance partners will switch in 2007. Among first-time C-USA meetings that will occur this year are Tulsa vs. Marshall, Houston vs. East Carolina and Southern Miss vs. UTEP. Defending West Division champ Southern Miss appears to have caught a scheduling break since the Golden Eagles won't have to face either of the last two league champs, Houston and Tulsa.

▸ C-USA had just one coaching change after the 2005 season. Four league teams switched coaches after the 2006 season. Tulsa's new coach, Todd Graham, switched jobs without switching leagues. He was Rice's head coach last season. Other new coaches are UAB's Neil Callaway, Rice's David Bailiff and Tulane's Bob Toledo.

▸ Parity reigns supreme in college football and that's especially true in C-USA. Eleven of the league's 12 teams have gone to bowl games during the last five years and C-USA ranks second nationally among Division I-A leagues in regard to close games. Only the SEC had a smaller margin of defeat in league games.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. UCF ▸ Cornerback Alphonso Bryant, a first-team 6A All-State player in Florida, is the gem of the class.
2. SOUTHERN MISS ▸ Running back Antwain Easterling was among the nation's top-ranked prospects at his position.
3. HOUSTON ▸ Running back Terrance Ganaway ran for 2,464 yards and 33 TDs last season.
4. MARSHALL ▸ The signing of QB Chris Smith bodes well for the future.
5. EAST CAROLINA ▸ Skip Holtz did well at home—21 of 26 signees hail from N.C.—and picked up big defensive lineman Linval Joseph from Florida.
6. MEMPHIS ▸ The Tigers apparently wanted immediate help, signing nine jucos in a lineman-heavy class.
7. UTEP ▸ The Miners raided Texas, California and the juco ranks for help.
8. TULSA ▸ The Golden Hurricane will need players like A.J. Whitmore to help upgrade the receiving corps.
9. RICE ▸ The Owls loaded up on linemen and safeties to flesh out their 4-2-5 defense.
10. SMU ▸ The Mustangs signed 10 players on the *Dallas Morning News*' list of the top 100 recruits in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.
11. UAB ▸ Versatile Darell Norman of Lincoln County (Ga.) High should help the new Blazer regime.
12. TULANE ▸ New Coach Bob Toledo had just three weeks to put together his first recruiting class.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-CONFERENCE USA TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Paul Smith, Sr., Tulsa	Albert McClellan, Jr., Marshall	DL
RB	Anthony Alridge, Sr., Houston	Martavius Prince, Sr., Southern Miss	DL
RB	Damion Fletcher, So., Southern Miss	Marcus Hands, Sr., East Carolina	DL
OL	Doug Legursky, Sr., Marshall	Phillip Hunt, Jr., Houston	DL
OL	Jeff Akeroyd, Sr., Houston	Nelson Coleman, Sr., Tulsa	LB
OL	Chris Clark, Sr., Southern Miss	Brian Raines, Jr., Rice	LB
OL	Brandon Pearce, Jr., Memphis	Jeremy Jones, Sr., UTEP	LB
OL	Robby Heos, Sr., Rice	Quintin Demps, Sr., UTEP	DB
WR	Jarett Dillard, Jr., Rice	Will Dunbar, Sr., UAB	DB
WR	Donnie Avery, Sr., Houston	Brandon Sumrall, Sr., Southern Miss	DB
TE	Shawn Nelson, Jr., Southern Miss	David Skehan, Sr., Tulane	DB
PK	Jarod Tracy, Jr., Tulsa	Thomas Morstead, Jr., SMU	P

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

EAST

P. 84 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI 1

P. 85 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — MARSHALL 2

P. 86 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — EAST CAROLINA 3

P. 86 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — UCF 4

P. 87 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — MEMPHIS 5

P. 87 STOCK: DOWN ↙↙↙↙ — UAB 6

WEST

P. 88 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — HOUSTON 1

P. 89 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — TULSA 2

P. 90 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — SMU 3

P. 90 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — UTEP 4

P. 91 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — RICE 5

P. 91 STOCK: DOWN ↙↙↙↙ — TULANE 6

#1 SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-5 » **C-USA:** 6-2 *(beat Ohio in the GMAC Bowl, 28-7)*

Hattiesburg **Stadium:** M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000) **Tickets:** 800-844-TICK

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Jeff Bower**
17th Year (112-77-1) **Career Record:** 112-77-1

Official athletic Web site: www.southernmiss.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Tennessee-Martin**	
S. 8	@TENNESSEE	
S. 15	@EAST CAROLINA	17-20 (OT)
S.27	» **@BOISE STATE**	
O. 3	**Rice**	
O. 13	**Southern Methodist**	
O. 21	@MARSHALL	42-7
O. 28	**UCF**	19-14
N. 3	@UAB	25-20
N. 10	**Memphis**	42-21
N. 17	@UTEP	
N. 24	**Arkansas State**	

» GAME TO WATCH «

If the Golden Eagles can win on the Smurf Turf, they can stake a claim as the nation's newest king of non-BCS leagues.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9	(C)
2005	7	(C)
2004	7	(C)
2003	9	(C)(B)
2002	7	(C)

(C) CONFERENCE TITLE (B) BOWL (N) NATIONAL TITLE

Is super sophomore Fletcher Golden Eagles' best player since the days of Brett Favre?

Southern Miss Coach Jeff Bower says finding diamonds in the rough is harder than it used to be.

Bower also says winning on a consistent basis is difficult because parity has arrived in college football.

The Golden Eagles beat the odds in both departments last season.

Bower's staff found a diamond in the rough—Damion Fletcher—and the rookie running back helped extend Southern Miss' string of winning seasons to 13 in a row.

The Golden Eagles went 9-5 last season, winning Conference USA's East Division and advancing to a bowl game for the ninth time in the last 10 years.

Same old Southern Miss. But the latest dose of usual was made possible by the unusual. The Golden Eagles hadn't accumulated 2,000 team-rushing yards since 1987 and hadn't had an individual rush for 1,000 yards since 2002.

Both of those plateaus were reached last season.

Bower says he has been searching for a running back ever since Derrick Nix (the team's former running backs coach) graduated.

Bower found his man and it happened to be a player that got a scholarship offer from just one other Division I-A school (Arkansas State).

Fletcher went to a Southern Miss camp prior to his senior year of high school and committed early to the Golden Eagles. Fletcher was a good enough multi-sport athlete that Bower knew the kid could at least play defensive back if he didn't pan out at running back.

Suffice it to say that Fletcher worked out. He came off the bench to run for a team-best 89 yards against eventual national champ Florida in his first collegiate game. Fletcher ran for at least 100 yards in seven other games on the way to 1,388 yards, most ever by a C-USA freshman. He also ranked 11th nationally in rushing.

"You don't expect that out of any freshman, coming in and making an impact the way he did," Bower says. "I think this past year he came in as a very mature freshman. He wasn't fazed by anything. He competed and he set his goals high. He learned fast."

Southern Miss ranked first in the league and 25th nationally in rushing last season. Eight starters return from a defense that allowed the fewest points in C-USA. The combination makes the Golden Eagles a no-brainer pick to be the league's best of the East once again.

Southern Miss returns three interior linemen (Martavius Prince, Sean Merrill, Robert Henderson), two defensive backs (LeVance Richmond, Brandon Sumrall) and all three starting linebackers (James Denley, Gerald McRath, Tokumbo Abanikanda). The only unsettled position is cornerback, where there is ample talent, but competition is so good that coaches haven't settled on starters.

McRath, who logged 104 tackles last season, might be the nation's oldest sophomore. He got hurt his first two years on campus and the NCAA granted him waivers. Bower says McRath will have time to earn multiple degrees before his eligibility expires.

Southern Miss produced a school-record 4,635 yards of total offense last season despite ranking last among C-USA teams in passing yards.

Expect improvement. Quarterback Jeremy Young was bothered by a turf toe injury last season.

Southern Miss lost good offensive linemen, but tackles Chris Clark and Ryan McKee give the Eagles a chance to be decent up front. Receiver Chris Johnson and first-team all-league tight end Shawn Nelson (36 catches) are back.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **ANTWAIN EASTERLING, RB**
The Golden Eagles already have a 1,000-yard rusher on campus, but the rich got richer when they signed true freshman Easterling, who was rated as the nation's fifth-best running back prospect by *espn.com*.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Antwain Easterling, RB, 5-11, 185**
   Florida All-Stater led Miami team to title.
2. **Randy Hardin, QB, 6-0, 185**
   Another Florida star; only question is size.
3. **Julius Gray, OL, 6-5, 325**
   Junior-college product has potential.
4. **Brennan Houston, TE, 6-4, 270**
   JC standout may play early.
5. **Korey Williams, LB, 6-2, 220**
   Touted prep defender from New Orleans.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **40/22**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Jeremy Young (6-3, 218, r-Sr.)
FB	34	Marcus Raines (6-3, 246, r-Sr.)
RB	35	Damion Fletcher (5-10, 175, So.)
LT	75	Chris Clark (6-5, 295, r-Sr.)
LG	76	Wesley Housley (6-2, 293, r-Jr.)
C	74	Rick Thompson (6-0, 275, r-Jr.)
RG	71	Ryan Hebert (6-5, 307, r-So.)
RT	66	Ryan McKee (6-6, 275, Jr.)
TE	1	Shawn Nelson (6-5, 242, r-Jr.)
SE	26	Ed Morgan (5-9, 160, Jr.)
WR	87	Chris Johnson (6-0, 176, r-Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	92	Eric Phillips (6-7, 291, r-Jr.)
NT	99	Sean Merrill (6-3, 294, Sr.)
DT	97	Martavius Prince (6-3, 295, r-Sr.)
BAN	91	Robert Henderson (6-3, 280, r-Sr.)
SLB	22	James Denley (6-2, 238, r-Sr.)
MLB	24	Gerald McRath (6-3, 213, r-So.)
WLB	41	Tokumbo Abanikanda (6-0, 218, Jr.)
FC	28	Michael Magee (5-10, 181, So.)
BC	23	Eddie Willingham (5-10, 175, r-Jr.)
FS	15	LeVance Richmond (5-11, 195, r-Sr.)
ROV	6	Brandon Sumrall (5-11, 197, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	3	Britt Barefoot (6-0, 180, r-Jr.)
P	3	Britt Barefoot (6-0, 180, r-Jr.)

MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

2006 Record: 5-7 » C-USA: 4-4

Stadium: Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,019) Tickets: 800-THE-HERD Huntington, W.Va.

« # 2 PRESEASON RANK

» Head Coach: Mark Snyder
3rd Year (9-14) Career Record: 9-14

Official athletic Web site: www.HerdZone.com

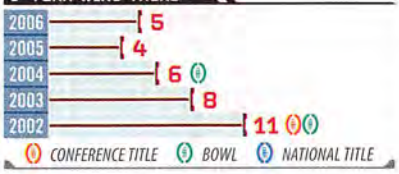
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@MIAMI (FL)	
S.8	» West Virginia	10-42
S. 15	New Hampshire	
S. 22	@CINCINNATI	
O. 2	@MEMPHIS	41-27
O. 13	@TULSA	
O. 21	Southern Miss	7-42
O. 27	Rice	
N. 3	@UCF	22-23
N. 10	East Carolina	20-33
N. 17	@HOUSTON	
N. 24	UAB	31-24

» GAME TO WATCH «

Expect a packed house when the Mountaineers show up in Huntington for the Coal Bowl.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 38/24

» OFFENSE		
QB	14	Bernard Morris (6-4, 211, Sr.)
RB	28	Chubb Small (5-9, 193, Jr.)
LT	63	John Inman (6-5, 302, Sr.)
LG	61	Josh Evans (6-4, 315, r-Fr)
C	66	Doug Legursky (6-3, 311, Sr.)
RG	65	Brian Leggett (6-1, 285, Jr.)
RT	79	Daniel Baldridge (6-9, 315, So.)
TE	85	Cody Slate (6-4, 212, So.)
WR	24	Emmanuel Spann (5-11, 179, Jr.)
WR	88	Darius Passmore (6-3, 180, Jr.)
WR	80	Courtney Edmonson (6-0, 175, So.)
» DEFENSE		
DE	96	Albert McClellan (6-2, 225, Jr.)
DT	94	Byron Tinker (6-4, 281, Sr.)
DT	93	Ryland Wilson (6-3, 248, Sr.)
DE	46	John Jacobs (6-3, 240, So.)
SLB	21	Ian Hoskins (6-2, 245, Jr.)
MLB	32	Josh Johnson (6-2, 250, Jr.)
WLB	45	Maurice Kitchens (6-3, 226, Jr.)
LCB	11	Zearrick Matthews (5-9, 162, So.)
RCB	8	J.J. Johnson (5-11, 180, Jr.)
FS	4	C.J. Spillman (6-0, 193, Jr.)
SS	29	Phillip Gamble (5-11, 217, Jr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	41	Anthony Binswanger (6-2, 193, Sr.)
P	31	Marty Biagi (6-0, 170, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	2

Snyder has Herd Nation thundering for a big season

The name of the movie was "We Are Marshall."

The question now is, when will Marshall be Marshall?

Once upon a time, Marshall was Boise State—the little team that struck fear in the hearts of opponents. The Thundering Herd produced 21 consecutive winning seasons (the streak ended in 2005) and exported NFL players such as Randy Moss, Chad Pennington and Byron Leftwich.

Marshall suffered losing seasons in each of the last two years, but could be on the path back to vintage football. The Herd were in the running for bowl eligibility last year until dropping their season finale to Southern Miss and are one of only four C-USA teams to return at least seven starters on both sides.

Mark Snyder, who enters his third season as coach, inherited the program at a time when a recession seemed almost inevitable. Marshall returned only seven starters his first season and gone were 25 seniors, including the entire defensive front seven. Ouch.

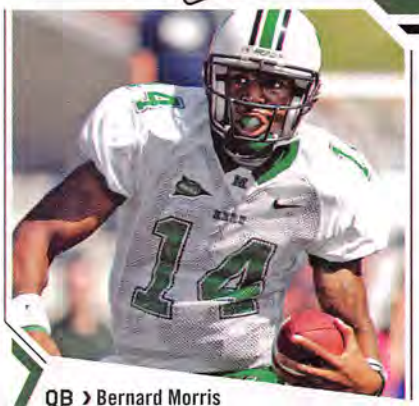
Perhaps Marshall will return to prominence this season. After starting 2006 1-5, the Herd went 4-2 to keep bowl hopes alive. A bear of an early-season schedule this year will give Snyder's team an opportunity to get the nation's attention. The first two games are against Miami and West Virginia.

Marshall, located in Huntington, W.Va., will have Herd faithful coming out of the woodwork for the home game against West Virginia on Sept. 8. Two fellows who will be excited about a road game at Miami are Florida natives Albert McClellan and Cody Slate, who just happen to be the Herd's most decorated players.

A junior defensive end from Lakeland, Fla., McClellan came from a very good high school program and perhaps was overlooked by recruiters because he was undersized, according to Snyder.

Give Marshall coaches credit for doing a nice job of evaluating talent.

McClellan, blessed with smarts and tremendous speed, led C-USA with 11.5 sacks and 19 tackles for losses last season. He was named co-Defensive Player of the Year in 2006.



QB › Bernard Morris

Sometimes you've got to see McClellan play to know what he's all about. During the spring, he ran across the field to catch a skill player from behind, stripped the ball and then took off running the other direction. Does that sound normal for a defensive lineman?

Slate, a sophomore tight end from Chipley, Fla., came to Marshall by way of Hargrave Military (Va.) Academy. As a Herd rookie, he led all receivers with 43 catches for 685 yards and six touchdowns, becoming the first true freshman to lead the school in receiving since Moss did so in 1996.

If spring performance is any indication, don't expect Slate to fall prey to a sophomore slump. He was dominant in the spring game, catching six passes for 157 yards and a touchdown.

Who will throw passes to Slate, though? That has yet to be determined. Former walk-on Bernard Morris is the incumbent starter and the team's returning leading rusher, but he is fighting to keep his job.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» Darius Passmore, WR

Passmore, a junior-college transfer, is 6-3 with sub-4.4 40-speed and the deep threat the Thundering Herd has lacked in recent seasons. He made an impact during spring drills.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Chris Smith, QB, 6-3, 220**
   Ohio's No. 4-ranked prep QB prospect.
2. **John Bruin, OL/DL, 6-5, 300**
   Tennessee star joins brother on team.
3. **T.J. Drakeford, DB, 5-11, 190**
   His N.C. team, Charlotte Independence, has a 108-game win streak.
4. **C.J. Wood, OL/DL, 6-5, 295**
   Georgia all-star has potential.
5. **Mark Cann, QB/ATH, 6-4, 210**
   Multi-sport high school standout.

PETER AIKEN / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Greenville, N.C. » 2006 Record: 7-6 » C-USA: 5-3

(lost to South Florida in the Papajohns.com Bowl, 24-7)

LOWER-TIER BOWL

#3 » EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

PRESEASON RANK

In football formation terminology, there is something called an empty backfield. That's also an apt description for East Carolina's predicament in 2007.

Last season, the Pirates won their most games since 2000 and went to a bowl game for the first time since 2001. They return 15 starters and a league-high 54 lettermen from a squad that placed second in C-USA's East Division.

In order to stay among the league's elite teams, East Carolina will have to overcome its empty backfield. The Pirates lost six offensive starters and five of them occupied so-called skill positions. The only returning starters are four offensive linemen and third-team all-conference tight end Davon Drew.

East Carolina must replace career-completions leader James Pinkney and Aundrae Allison, who produced the third-most receiving yards in school history.

The rebooted Pirates are not without weapons, though. Chris Johnson was an all-conference player as a return specialist last season, when he accumulated a team-best 972 all-purpose yards. The senior already owns the school record for most catches and receiving yards by a running back. Redshirt freshman running back Norman Whitley could be a star of the future.

Sophomore Rob Kass separated himself from the other quarterback candidates during the spring game, according to Coach Skip Holtz. Kass threw for 231 yards and two touchdowns in the spring finale.

East Carolina was one of C-USA's worst defensive teams two seasons ago, but ranked among the league's best last year. The Pirates were third in scoring defense, total defense and pass efficiency defense. They gave up their fewest points (20.8 per game) since 2000.

Defensive end Marcus Hands and linebacker Quentin Cotton were third-team all-conference players last season.

Head Coach: Skip Holtz
3rd Year (12-12)
Career Record: 12-12 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium
Tickets: 800-DIAL-ECU
Capacity: 43,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.ecupirates.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7 (1)
2005	5
2004	2
2003	1
2002	4

(1) Conference Title (2) Bowl (3) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S. 8	**North Carolina**	
S. 15	**SOUTHERN MISS**	20-17 (OT)
S. 22	@WEST VIRGINIA	10-27
S. 29	@HOUSTON	
O. 6	**UCF**	23-10
O. 13	@UTEP	
O. 20	**N.C. State**	21-16
O. 27	**UAB**	12-17
N. 3	@MEMPHIS	35-20
N. 10	@MARSHALL	33-20
N. 24	**Tulane**	

» GAME TO WATCH «

Never mind the difficult non-conference games. The rebuilt Pirates will get to see how they stack up against C-USA squads in a league opener against Southern Miss.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **54/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	14	Rob Kass (6-4, 250, So.)
FB		Jason Simmons (6-0, 227, Jr.)
RB	5	Chris Johnson (5-11, 200, Sr.)
OT	69	Willie Barton (6-5, 350, Jr.)
OG	68	Matt Butler (6-4, 309, Sr.)
C	72	Stephen Heis (6-5, 292, So.)
OG	70	Doug Palmer (6-3, 315, So.)
OT	76	Josh Coffman (6-7, 300, Sr.)
TE	3	Davon Drew (6-4, 247, Jr.)
WR	10	Jamar Bryant (6-2, 205, So.)
WR	83	Steven Rogers (6-0, 186, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	92	Marcus Hands (6-5, 277, Jr.)
NG	96	Mark Robinson (6-3, 286, Sr.)
DT	98	Khalif Mitchell (6-6, 320, Jr.)
DE	41	Zach Slate (6-5, 227, Jr.)
OLB	50	Quentin Cotton (6-2, 224, Jr.)
MLB	51	Fred Wilson (6-2, 250, Sr.)
OLB	34	Pierre Bell (6-2, 238, Jr.)
CB	35	Jerek Hewett (5-11, 184, Jr.)
CB	33	Leon Best (6-0, 200, Jr.)
FS	37	Van Eskridge (6-0, 206, So.)
SS	38	Chris Mattocks (6-0, 206, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	30	Ben Hartman (5-11, 195, So.)
P	5	Nathan Przestrzelski (6-5, 175, r-Fr.)

Orlando » 2006 Record: 4-8 » C-USA: 3-5

#4 » CENTRAL FLORIDA GOLDEN KNIGHTS

PRESEASON RANK

What have we found out about UCF the last few seasons? Expect the unexpected.

UCF was winless in 2004, so expectations were nil in 2005. Then the Knights shocked everyone and got all the way to the C-USA Championship game.

Because UCF returned 19 starters in 2006, great things were expected. The Knights started 2-7, finished 4-8 and never won consecutive league games last season.

UCF returns 19 starters in 2007. It's impossible to know exactly what that means, so let's talk about what we do know.

UCF will play its first game in a new on-campus 45,000-seat stadium Sept. 15. Maybe you've heard of the squad—the Texas Longhorns—that agreed to be the first opponent in Bright House Networks Stadium. ESPN or ESPN2 will televise the christening.

When healthy, running back Kevin Smith is the real deal. Smith, a junior, ran for 2,112 yards in his first two collegiate seasons. He also ranks eighth in the nation among returning juniors in rushing yards and sixth in average yards per game (103.8).

The Knights are due for some good fortune. They ranked last nationally with only two fumble recoveries last season and they tied for last in turnovers gained with 12. The ball has to bounce the other way this year, right?

UCF ranked third among Conference USA teams in total yards on offense last season, but somehow managed to score a league-low 25 touchdowns. Senior quarterback Kyle Israel, who played in nine games last season and completed 65.1 percent of his attempts, will lead the offense.

Defense continues to be a problem. Last season the Knights were 101st nationally in scoring defense, 106th in total defense and 111th in pass defense. The bright spot is Johnell Neal, the first cornerback in school history to lead the team in tackles.

Head Coach: George O'Leary
4th Year (12-24)
Career Record: 64-57
Stadium: Bright House Networks Stadium
Tickets: 407-823-1000
Capacity: 45,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.ucfathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4
2005	8 (1)
2004	0
2003	3
2002	7

(1) Conference Title (2) Bowl (3) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@N.C. STATE	
S. 15	**TEXAS**	
S. 22	**Memphis**	26-24
S. 29	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	
O. 6	@EAST CAROLINA	10-23
O. 13	@SOUTH FLORIDA	17-24
O. 20	**Tulsa**	
O. 28	@SOUTHERN MISS	14-19
N. 3	**Marshall**	23-22
N. 10	@UAB	31-22
N. 17	@SMU	
N. 24	**UTEP**	

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Knights will play their first game in a new on-campus facility, Bright House Networks Stadium.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **19**
Lettermen returning/lost: **41/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Kyle Israel (6-2, 223, Sr.)
TB	24	Kevin Smith (6-1, 211, Jr.)
FB	39	Shane Smith (6-3, 235, r-So.)
LT	78	Patrick Brown (6-5, 290, So.)
LG	66	Jeramy DeVane (6-3, 290, So.)
C	79	Kyle Smith (6-2, 301, Sr.)
RG	63	L.J. Anderson (6-3, 292, r-Jr.)
RT	70	Josh Sitton (6-3, 324, Sr.)
TE	85	Mike Merritt (6-3, 270, r-Sr.)
WR	5	Rocky Ross (6-2, 198, So.)
WR	18	David James (6-3, 197, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

SLB	59	Cory Hogue (6-1, 233, Jr.)
LE	91	Leger Douzable (6-4, 295, Sr.)
LT	98	Torrell Johnson (6-3, 335, So.)
RT	74	Keith Shologan (6-2, 275, Jr.)
RE	44	Antonio Wallace (6-2, 260, Jr.)
MLB	14	Steven Baker (6-3, 215, r-Sr.)
WLB	56	Jordan Richards (6-2, 217, Jr.)
LCB	31	Johnell Neal (5-11, 180, r-Jr.)
RCB	19	Joe Burnett (5-11, 180, Jr.)
FS	45	Jason Venson (5-10, 212, r-Jr.)
SS	29	Sha'reff Rashad (6-0, 200, r-Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	4	Michael Torres (5-9, 229, r-Sr.)
P	4	Michael Torres (5-9, 229, r-Sr.)

MEMPHIS TIGERS

5

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Tommy West
7th Year (34-38)
Career Record: 69-73
Stadium: Liberty Bowl Memorial
Tickets: 901-678-2331
Capacity: 62,380
Official athletic Web site:
www.gotigersgo.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	2
2005	7
2004	8
2003	9
2002	3

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Mississippi**	25-28
S. 8	@ARKANSAS ST.	23-26
S. 15	**Jacksonville State**	
S. 22	@UCF	24-26
O. 2	**MARSHALL**	**27-41**
O. 13	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
O. 20	@RICE	
O. 27	@TULANE	
N. 3	**East Carolina**	20-35
N. 10	@SOUTHERN MISS	21-42
N. 17	**UAB**	29-35
N. 24	**SMU**	

GAME TO WATCH

Memphis was 0-4 in league home games last year. Let's see how the Tigers do in their C-USA home debut.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **47/24**

OFFENSE

QB	13	Martin Hankins (6-2, 205, r-Sr.)
TB	5	Joseph Doss (5-9, 196, Sr.)
LT	65	Abraham Holloway (6-4, 301, r-Sr.)
LG	70	Michael Denning (6-4, 275, r-Jr.)
C	57	Philip Beliles (6-5, 270, r-Jr.)
RG	69	Andy Smith (6-4, 307, r-Sr.)
RT	71	Brandon Pearce (6-6, 280, Jr.)
TE	85	Brett Russell (6-3, 235, r-Jr.)
WR	22	Duke Calhoun (6-4, 185, So.)
WR	12	Taz Knockum (6-2, 220, r-Sr.)
WR	2	Steven Black (6-3, 208, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LE	53	Clinton McDonald (6-3, 255, Jr.)
LT	99	Freddie Barnett (6-2, 300, Jr.)
RT	60	Brandon Douglas (6-3, 291, r-Jr.)
RE	94	Greg Terrell (6-4, 230, r-So.)
LLB	47	Jake Kasser (5-10, 195, Sr.)
MLB	37	Heath Grant (6-1, 230, Sr.)
RLB	59	Greg Jackson (6-2, 205, Jr.)
LCB	18	LaKeitharun Ford (5-9, 180, r-Sr.)
RCB	27	John McArthur (5-11, 175, r-Fr.)
FS	2	Brandon Patterson (6-1, 190, r-Jr.)
SS	6	Dontae Reed (6-2, 210, r-Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	43	Matt Reagan (6-1, 210, So.)
P	49	Brent Sutherland (6-4, 200, Jr.)

Coach Tommy West shook things up during and after a 2-10 season. He relieved Defensive Coordinator Joe Lee Dunn of coaching duties three games into 2006 and then overhauled the remainder of his staff after the season. Clay Helton, Kenny Ingram and Rick Mallory are the only holdovers from last year.

West apparently was willing to do major housecleaning in an attempt to get his program back on track. From 2003-05, Memphis averaged eight wins and participated in three consecutive bowls for the first time ever in the school's history.

Of course, everyone suspected Memphis might slip a bit after losing star running back DeAngelo Williams to the NFL after the 2005 season. But the fall was far worse than anticipated.

As much as the Tigers missed Williams, they missed having a defense even more. They allowed opponents to convert 49 percent of third downs (only two Division I-A schools fared worse in that department). They also ranked 111th nationally in yards allowed, 103rd in points allowed and 104th against the run.

A little improvement could go a long way since Memphis lost five games last season by six or fewer points.

New Defensive Coordinator Rick Kravitz, a former assistant at N.C. State and South Florida, will inherit a defensive line that West believes could be the best he has had in his six years at Memphis. The three starting linemen are Brandon Douglas, Clinton McDonald and Greg Terrell.

Helton, who tutored the receivers last year, was promoted to offensive coordinator and will have the luxury of coaching an incumbent quarterback. In his first season as the starter, Southeastern Louisiana transfer Martin Hankins completed 59.9 percent of his passes for 2,550 yards and 18 TDs.

UAB BLAZERS

6

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Neil Callaway
1st year
Stadium: Legion Field
Tickets: 205-975-UAB1
Capacity: 72,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.uabsports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	3
2005	5
2004	7
2003	5
2002	5

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@MICHIGAN ST.	
S. 8	@FLORIDA STATE	
S. 15	**Alcorn State**	
S. 29	@TULSA	
O. 6	@MISSISSIPPI ST.	10-16 (OT)
O. 13	**TULANE**	
O. 20	**Houston**	
O. 27	@EAST CAROLINA	17-12
N. 3	**Southern Miss**	20-25
N. 10	**UCF**	22-31
N. 17	@MEMPHIS	35-29
N. 24	@MARSHALL	24-31

GAME TO WATCH

UAB's first four games against I-A competition are on the road with Michigan State, Florida State, Tulsa and Mississippi State. Tulane will be the first I-A visitor to Birmingham.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **9**
Lettermen returning/lost: **39/30**

OFFENSE

QB	3	Sam Hunt (6-3, 215, Sr.)
RB	24	Rashad Slaughter (5-9, 185, So.)
H	35	David Sigler (6-3, 250, Sr.)
LT	63	Willie Thompson (6-6, 285, So.)
LG	68	Adam Hollifield (6-3, 300, r-Fr.)
C	53	Jake Seitz (6-2, 300, So.)
RG	79	JaMarius Dismuke (6-5, 320, Sr.)
RT	61	Adam Truitt (6-3, 310, Jr.)
TE	86	Jeffrey Anderson (6-3, 220, r-Fr.)
WR	80	Blake Thackston (6-1, 180, Sr.)
WR	7	Darryl Harris (5-10, 170, r-Fr.)

DEFENSE

DE	92	Brandon Jeffries (6-4, 250, Sr.)
DT	76	Todd Howanitz (6-7, 265, So.)
NT	89	Cortlin Johnson (6-2, 260, Sr.)
DE	90	Joe Happe (6-4, 250, So.)
SLB	57	Kris Guyton (6-3, 230, Jr.)
MLB	45	B.J. Steed (6-1, 220, So.)
WLB	51	Joe Henderson (6-2, 210, Jr.)
CB	31	Zach Britten (5-10, 180, Sr.)
CB	21	Kevin Sanders (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS	18	Will Dunbar (6-1, 195, Sr.)
SS	32	Durrell Fuqua (5-11, 185, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	94	Swayze Waters (6-0, 170, Jr.)
P	94	Swayze Waters (6-0, 170, Jr.)

Watson Brown spent 12 years as UAB's coach and shepherded the program from Division I-AA to I-A. He even took the Blazers to their first-ever bowl game in 2004. Brown should be commended for helping the program successfully take a step up in class.

But four losing seasons in the last five years exacted a toll and Brown stepped aside to become Tennessee Tech's head coach.

The new coach—only the third in UAB's history—should be familiar to folks who live in Alabama. Neil Callaway played for Bear Bryant at Alabama and served tours of duty as an assistant coach at Alabama and Auburn.

Callaway most recently spent the last six years as offensive coordinator at Georgia and says he is looking forward to building on what exists at UAB "and taking it farther than people can imagine."

Callaway also says his players will start off with a clean slate. That's about the only kind of slate you can have when you take over a squad that returns only four starters on each side of the ball. UAB lost a league-high 30 lettermen.

Maybe starting from scratch isn't such a bad idea when you have an offense that ranked last among C-USA teams in total yards and second worst in scoring.

Returning offensive starters—guard Adam Truitt, center Jake Seitz, running back David Sigler and quarterback Sam Hunt—will be working for new coordinator Kim Helton, the former Houston head coach. Hunt, a senior, split time at QB last year and completed 58.5 percent of his passes. Sophomore quarterback Joseph Webb didn't see action until late in the season and completed 64.7 percent of his attempts.

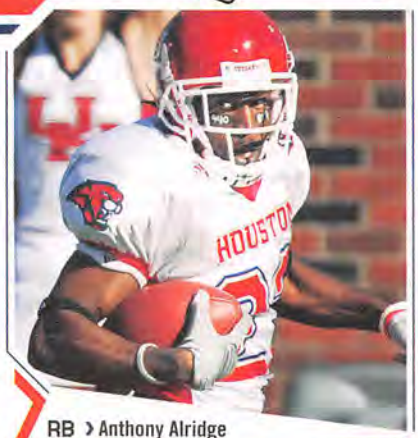
Defensively, three of the top four tacklers return, including safety Will Dunbar and linebacker Joe Henderson, both third-team All-C-USA picks.

#1 HOUSTON COUGARS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 10-4 » C-USA: 7-1 *(lost to South Carolina in the Liberty Bowl, 44-36)*

Houston Stadium: John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium (32,000) **Tickets:** 877-COUGAR-5



RB › Anthony Alridge

With dynamic player in Alridge back, Houston should have no problem in C-USA

Anthony Alridge began last season as a wide receiver. He finished it as one of the nation's most dynamic running backs, averaging a first down (10.1 yards) per carry.

"He is a guy that if you can create just a little bit of space, he can take it the distance," Coach Art Briles says.

Alridge was recruited as a running back. The Cougars had other capable tailbacks on campus, but Alridge was so talented that coaches wanted to get him on the field somewhere. That sparked a move to receiver. According to Briles, Houston's running game was "not where we needed it" during a three-game losing streak last season.

So the switch back to tailback was made, the ground game took off and so did Houston's season. The Cougars peeled off six consecutive victories en route to a Conference USA championship.

Alridge ran for more than 100 yards in three straight games during the season-turning hot streak, converting minimal touches into gold—nine carries for 131 yards against UCF, 12 for 136 against Tulsa and 13 for 225 against SMU. He finished the season with five runs of at least 50 yards.

Alridge's emergence is a big reason why Houston (which returns 17 starters) is a favorite to win the Western Division despite the loss of C-USA career passing leader Kevin Kolb and UH career receiving leader Vincent Marshall.

Sophomore Blake Joseph (who completed six of his eight pass attempts last season) and redshirt freshman Case Keenum competed for the starting QB job during spring drills. Briles says they are running neck-and-neck and a decision probably won't be made until 10 days prior to the season opener at Oregon. (The Cougars, who apparently don't fear quality competition, also will play a road game at Alabama.)

Regardless of who plays quarterback, UH won't be content just to hand the ball off to Alridge. The Cougars ranked eighth nationally in passing last season and returning receivers Donnie Avery and Jeron Harvey combined for 98 catches in 2006.

Among four starting offensive linemen back is Jeff Akeroyd, who was second-team all-league last season.

Houston ranked fourth among C-USA teams in both scoring defense and total defense last season. During the second halves of games, the Cougars played defense like the 1985 Chicago Bears. In 10 victories over Division I-A opponents, UH allowed opponents to average just 5.6 points after halftime.

Defensive end Phillip Hunt earned all-league honors last season and is one of eight returning defensive starters. Back are three starting linebackers—Trent Allen, Cody Lubojasky and Brendan Pahulu—along with cornerback Kenneth Fontenette, who could have a breakout season. Also returning is safety Rocky Schwartz, an impact hitter who missed most of last season with a knee injury. Keep an eye on defensive tackle Ell Ash, who could blossom into a dominant player.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» Chris Gilbert, WR

The sophomore isn't as fast as former UH star Vincent Marshall, but Gilbert should emerge as a playmaker because he makes plays in space and is tough.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Rodney Brisbon, OL, 6-6, 330** *Touted juco All-American.*
2. **Joseph Florence, WR, 6-4, 200** *Big receiving target from top prep program.*
3. **Tyrell Graham, LB, 6-3, 210** *Transfer from Arkansas may help now.*
4. **Naseri Eteuini, OL, 6-4, 305** *Another promising JC transfer.*
5. **Terrance Ganaway, RB, 6-0, 200** *Lone running back in recruiting class.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

» Head Coach: Art Briles
5th Year (26-24) **Career Record:** 26-24

Official athletic Web site: www.uhcougars.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	» @OREGON	
S. 15	@TULANE	45-7
S. 22	**Colorado State**	
S. 29	**East Carolina**	
O. 6	@ALABAMA	
O. 13	**Rice**	31-30
O. 20	@UAB	
O. 27	@UTEP	34-17
N. 4	**Southern Methodist**	37-27
N. 10	@TULSA	27-10
N. 17	**Marshall**	
N. 24	**Texas Southern**	

» GAME TO WATCH «

The post-Kevin Kolb Era begins at a place where few teams win.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10
2005	6
2004	3
2003	7
2002	5

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **52/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	15	Blake Joseph (6-2, 215, So.)
RB	22	Anthony Alridge (5-9, 175, Sr.)
LT	79	Matt Hart (6-6, 305, So.)
LG	77	Jeff Akeroyd (6-3, 295, Sr.)
C	57	Carl Barnett (6-2, 285, So.)
RG	64	Michael Bloesch (6-2, 295, Jr.)
RT	73	Dustin Dickinson (6-3, 290, Sr.)
TE	87	Mark Hafner (6-3, 230, Jr.)
WR	1	Jeron Harvey (6-5, 215, Sr.)
WR	2	Donnie Avery (5-11, 190, Sr.)
SL	8	Chris Gilbert (5-9, 175, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	53	Phillip Hunt (6-2, 250, Jr.)
NT	56	Cody Pree (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	90	Ell Ash (6-5, 293, Jr.)
OLB	3	Brendan Pahulu (6-3, 239, Sr.)
ILB	34	Cody Lubojasky (6-3, 230, Jr.)
ILB	41	Trent Allen (6-2, 244, Sr.)
OLB	27	Stephen James (5-10, 205, Jr.)
CB	8	Quinte Williams (5-11, 170, Jr.)
CB	28	Kenneth Fontenette (6-0, 185, Jr.)
FS	9	Joseph Gonzales (5-11, 200, Sr.)
SS	20	Rocky Schwartz (5-10, 200, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	14	Ben Bell (6-0, 175, Jr.)
P	45	Tommy Skinner (6-4, 215, r-Fr.)

DOUG HOLLEMAN

TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE

2006 Record: 8-5 » C-USA: 5-3 *(lost to Utah in the Armed Forces Bowl, 25-13)*

Stadium: Skelly Stadium (35,542) **Tickets:** 918-631-4688 **Tulsa**

 # 2
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Todd Graham**
1st Year **Career Record:** 7-6

Official athletic Web site: www.tulsahurricane.com

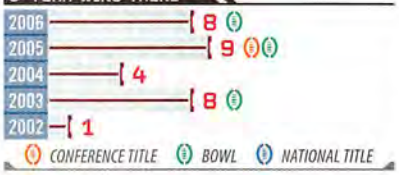
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
S. 15	**Brigham Young**	24-49
S. 21	**Oklahoma**	
S. 29	**UAB**	
O. 6	@UTEP	30-20
O. 13	**Marshall**	
O. 20	@UCF	
O. 27	**SMU**	24-34
N. 3	@TULANE	38-3
N. 10	**Houston**	10-27
N. 17	@ARMY	
N. 24	@RICE	38-41 (OT)

» GAME TO WATCH «

It's a battle of the last two C-USA champions. And Tulsa hasn't beaten Houston since joining the league.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **12**
Lettermen returning/lost: **36/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Paul Smith (6-2, 193, Sr.)
RB	20	Courtney Tennial (5-9, 214, Sr.)
HB	1	Cody Madison (6-3, 239, Sr.)
LT	56	Walter Boyd (6-2, 317, Sr.)
LG	76	Curt Puckett (6-3, 305, So.)
C	65	Jody Whaley (6-3, 302, So.)
RG	53	Justin Morsey (5-2, 282, Jr.)
RT	70	Roderick Thomas (6-4, 347, Jr.)
TE	30	Ted Curtis (6-1, 242, Sr.)
WR	15	Dion Toliver (5-10, 175, Jr.)
WR	16	Nick Henderson (6-0, 175, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	97	Anthony Egbuniwe (6-4, 240, So.)
NG	99	Terrel Nemons (6-4, 345, Jr.)
DE	93	Moton Hopkins (6-3, 275, Jr.)
SLB	32	Chris Chamberlain (6-2, 225, Sr.)
MLB	55	Nelson Coleman (6-2, 235, Sr.)
WLB	44	Alain Karatepeyan 6-1, 250, Sr.)
BAN	6	Steve Craver (6-1, 212, Sr.)
CB	24	Charles Davis (5-9, 165, So.)
CB	10	Roy Roberts (5-11, 205, Jr.)
FS	7	Randy Duncan (6-2, 188, Jr.)
SS	3	Anthony Germany (6-1, 211, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	29	Jarod Tracy (6-0, 165, Jr.)
P	48	Paul Jurado (6-1, 195, Jr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

Graham must fill large shoes of Kragthorpe for Hurricane to maintain top C-USA status

New Tulsa football Coach Todd Graham has a tough act to follow.

Over the past four seasons, former Coach Steve Kragthorpe led the Golden Hurricane to 30 wins, a conference championship and three bowl games. Consider that in 27 years prior to Kragthorpe's arrival, Tulsa managed just two bowl appearances. Has a coach ever been a team's MVP?

This offseason, Kragthorpe bolted for Louisville and Tulsa took steps to ensure continuity by hiring Graham.

For three seasons, Graham was Kragthorpe's defensive coordinator at Tulsa. Graham left for a one-year head coaching stint at Rice, guiding the Owls to their first bowl appearance since 1961.

When Kragthorpe departed, Graham had to choose between staying at Rice or returning to Tulsa to coach many players he helped recruit. The decision, Graham says, wasn't about money.

"There is no question in my mind that this is a special situation here because of being in the right place at the right time," he adds, referring to both the state of the program and facility upgrades both current and pending.

"We've got support here like I don't think has ever been here in the past at this level. The administration wants to be a Top 25 team in the country and wants to compete and win championships every year. We've got people putting money behind it. We will have a new stadium here in the very near future that is—no question in my mind—going to put us in position to do those things."

Graham can't be accused of having an inferiority complex. At the end of spring drills, he spoke about winning conference championships and BCS bowl games.

Maintaining the status quo would be a nifty feat. Tulsa has won eight or more games in consecutive seasons for the first time since 1982-83 and has made back-to-back bowl appearances for the first time since 1964-65, when Jerry Rhome and Howard Twilley took turns finishing second in Heisman Trophy races.

The return of quarterback Paul Smith should help Tulsa be a contender in Conference USA's Western Division again. Smith enters his senior season in second place on the school's total offense and passing yardage lists.

Smith is learning a new system because Tulsa is implementing a no-huddle spread offense. Gus Malzahn, who spent last season as Arkansas' offensive coordinator, left the Razorbacks to join Herb Hand as Tulsa's co-coordinator.

Tulsa, which has used a tailback-by-committee approach in recent seasons, returns proven runners in Oklahoma transfer Courtney Tennial and Tarrion Adams, who combined for 1,174 rushing yards last season. Tennial's 16 total touchdowns were the second-most in school history.

The Golden Hurricane has issues to address at offensive line (only one starting lineman returns) and receiver.

Six starters, including all-league linebackers Nelson Coleman and Chris Chamberlain, return to a defense that allowed the fewest yards and second-fewest points in C-USA last season. Graham believes he has the league's best linebacker tandem. Coleman led the Hurricane in tackles each of the last two seasons and has 274 career tackles, sixth-most in school history.

Other starters back are nose guard Terrel Nemons, defensive end Moton Hopkins, strong safety Anthony Germany and cornerback Roy Roberts. Playmakers like Steve Craver and Alain Karatepeyan are among lettermen with substantial experience. Graham wants to turn up the heat in an attempt to force turnovers. His Rice team led the league in takeaways and sacks last year.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» CHRIS CHAMBERLAIN, LB

He may have gotten overlooked while playing next to Nick Bunting and Nelson Coleman the last two seasons, but Chamberlain will enter his senior year with 20 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Dion Tolliver, WR, 5-10, 175**
   Junior-college transfer could impact early.
2. **Tyler Holmes, OL, 6-3, 300**
   Canadian played several prep positions.
3. **Genesis Cole, DB, 6-1, 180**
   Arkansas product from top prep program.
4. **Charles Clay, RB, 6-3, 225**
   Earned high rating across the board from scouts.
5. **Mike Johnson, QB, 6-1, 210**
   North Carolina product lone QB in class.

Dallas » 2006 Record: 6-6 » C-USA: 4-4

LOWER-TIER BOWL

#3 » SMU MUSTANGS

PRESEASON RANK

Southern Methodist is the only Conference USA team that hasn't gone to a bowl in any of the last five seasons. The Mustangs were oh-so-close last year.

SMU went 6-6 to become bowl-eligible. But, because there were more bowl-eligible teams than bowl spots, the Mustangs didn't get a date for the prom.

The Mustangs haven't been to a bowl since 1984, with much of the thanks going to a program-crippling NCAA "death penalty." The long road back could finally lead to a postseason destination.

"A bowl game is an absolute possibility," Coach Phil Bennett says.

SMU has improved its victory total each of the last three seasons and is coming off its winningest season in a decade. For the Mustangs to take the next step, they will have to become more consistent. SMU never won (or lost) consecutive league games last season.

The most costly defeat was the last one. SMU was beaten 31-27 by Rice in the regular-season finale. Rice went bowling for the first time since 1961. SMU stayed home.

One problem that has dogged the Mustangs during their bowl drought is instability at quarterback. That doesn't seem to be an issue anymore. Justin Willis was Conference USA's Freshman of the Year last season, when he threw a school-record 26 touchdown passes and was intercepted only six times.

Willis will work behind an offensive line that returns all five starters and can throw to Emmanuel Sanders, who set a school record last season by catching TD passes in six consecutive games.

SMU led the league in rushing defense last season and the defensive line will be rebuilt around Cory Muse, who ranked third in the league with seven sacks despite a nagging knee injury.

Head Coach: Phil Bennett
6th Year (17-41)
Career Record: 17-41
Stadium: Gerald J. Ford Stadium
Tickets: 214-SMU-GAME
Capacity: 32,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.smumustangs.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6
2005	5
2004	3
2003	0
2002	3

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 3	**Texas Tech**	3-35
S. 8	**North Texas**	6-24
S. 15	@ARKANSAS ST.	55-9
S. 22	@TCU	
S. 29	**UTEP**	21-24
O. 13	@SOUTHERN MISS	
O. 20	**Tulane**	33-28
O. 27	@TULSA	34-24
N. 4	@HOUSTON	27-37
N. 10	**Rice**	27-31
N. 17	**UCF**	
N. 24	@MEMPHIS	

» GAME TO WATCH «

An embarrassing early-season loss to North Texas last year prevented SMU from having a winning season. Revenge will be on the Mustangs' mind.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **18**
Lettermen returning/lost: **39/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	16	Justin Willis (6-1, 210, So.)
RB	8	DeMyron Martin (6-2, 230, Jr.)
RB	23	Cedrick Dorsey (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	66	Ben Poynter (6-4, 290, Sr.)
LG	74	Sean Lobo (6-3, 295, Jr.)
C	51	Mitch Enright (6-2, 275, So.)
RG	50	Caleb Peveto (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RT	76	Kenard Burley (6-5, 310, Sr.)
TE	86	Vincent Chase (6-5, 255, Jr.)
WR	17	Emmanuel Sanders (6-1, 170, So.)
WR	84	Zack Sledge (5-11, 190, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	94	Patrick Handy (6-2, 250, Jr.)
NG	93	Chris Parham (6-2, 280, r-Fr.)
DT	92	Charlie Berry (6-3, 280, Sr.)
RE	11	Cory Muse (6-3, 250, Sr.)
SLB	38	Tony Hawkins (6-1, 210, Jr.)
MLB	53	Reggie Carrington (6-2, 240, Sr.)
WLB	5	Wilton McCray (6-0, 205, Sr.)
LCB	6	Bryan McCann (6-0, 175, So.)
RCB	21	Jonathan Lindley (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS	10	Rock Dennis (5-10, 175, Jr.)
SS	28	Bryce Hudman (6-2, 200, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	15	Thomas Morstead (6-5, 215, Jr.)
P	15	Thomas Morstead (6-5, 215, Jr.)

El Paso » 2006 Record: 5-7 » C-USA: 3-5

#4 » UTEP MINERS

PRESEASON RANK

The big question at UTEP is who will play quarterback now that career-passing leader Jordan Palmer is gone? Nothing sparks offseason football conversion quite like a quarterback race.

But what goes on in front of the quarterback may prove to be a bigger factor in determining whether the Miners can bounce back from their first losing season under Coach Mike Price.

UTEP went 8-4 in each of Price's first two seasons and tumbled to 5-7 last year, despite the nation's fifth-best passing attack. In evaluating what went awry, Price determined that the running game must improve, or else.

UTEP ranked 116th nationally in rushing last season, averaging 2.4 yards per carry and 57.6 yards per game. The Miners were outrushed 1,829 yards to 691. And, for the first time since 1992, no Miner back cracked the 100-yard barrier in a game.

Improvement in the offensive line is high on the priority list. UTEP experienced growing pains in that area last season. Better days should be ahead for blockers like center Robby Felix, third-team all-league last season, and Tyler Ribitzki, an honorable mention all-league selection.

UTEP has players on campus who can turn a crease into yardage. Among them is former *Parade* All-American Marcus Thomas, who ran for 1,304 yards the last two seasons and set a school record with four consecutive 100-yard games in 2005. Also watch out for Terrell Jackson, an Oregon transfer and a former SuperPrep All-American.

Only four starters return from a defense that ranked 104th nationally, but they include All-America safety Quintin Demps, who has 13 interceptions and 34 career starts on his résumé. He'll try to help UTEP to a bowl game for the third time in four years.

Head Coach: Mike Price
4th Year (21-15)
Career Record: 150-137
Stadium: Sun Bowl Stadium
Tickets: 915-747-6150
Capacity: 51,500
Official athletic Web site:
www.utepathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	5
2005	8
2004	8
2003	2
2002	2

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**New Mexico**	13-26
S. 8	@TEXAS TECH	35-38 (OT)
S. 15	@NEW MEXICO ST.	44-38
S. 22	**Texas Southern**	
S. 29	@SMU	24-21
O. 6	**Tulsa**	20-30
O. 13	**East Carolina**	
O. 27	**Houston**	17-34
N. 3	@RICE	31-37
N. 10	@TULANE	34-20
N. 17	**Southern Miss**	
N. 24	@UCF	

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Miners lost five of their last six games last season and need to make a statement in the opener.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **12**
Lettermen returning/lost: **38/26**

» OFFENSE

QB	3	Lorne Sam (6-3, 215, Sr.)
TB	8	Marcus Thomas (6-1, 215, Sr.)
LT	71	Mike Aguayo (6-4, 285, So.)
LG	78	Cameron Raschke (6-4, 330, So.)
C	62	Robby Felix (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG	73	James Riley (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RT	77	Tyler Ribitzki (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	37	Jake Sears (6-3, 255, Sr.)
WR	4	Joe West (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	18	Jeff Moturi (6-0, 185, So.)
WR	3	Lorne Sam (6-3, 215, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	92	Dane O'Neill (6-3, 240, So.)
LT	91	James Olalekan (6-2, 285, Jr.)
RT	95	Steve Riddick (5-11, 280, So.)
RE	13	Robert Soleyjacks (6-2, 255, Fr.)
SLB	34	Emeri Spence (6-0, 225, Sr.)
MLB	5	Adam Vincent (6-3, 245, Jr.)
WLB	6	Jeremy Jones (6-1, 240, Sr.)
LCB	3	Tim McCullouch (5-11, 190, Sr.)
RCB	2	Josh Ferguson (5-9, 180, Sr.)
FS	9	Quintin Demps (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SS	14	Braxton Amy (6-0, 195, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	15	Jose Martinez (5-10, 200, Jr.)
P	14	Kyle Peterson (6-4, 220, Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

(lost to Troy in the New Orleans Bowl, 41-17)

RICE OWLS

#5

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: David Bailiff
1st year
Stadium: Rice Stadium
Tickets: 713-522-OWLS
Capacity: 70,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.riceowls.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7
2005	1
2004	3
2003	5
2002	4

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Nicholls State**	
S. 8	@BAYLOR	
S. 15	**Texas Tech**	
S. 22	@TEXAS	7-52
O. 3	@SOUTHERN MISS	
O. 13	@HOUSTON	30-31
O. 20	**Memphis**	
O. 27	@MARSHALL	
N. 3	**UTEP**	37-31
N. 10	@SMU	31-27
N. 17	**Tulane**	24-38
N. 24	**Tulsa**	41-38 (OT)

GAME TO WATCH

The Owls lost their head coach to Tulsa, so the regular-season finale will have a juicy subplot.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **48/17**

OFFENSE

QB	16	Chase Clement (6-1, 190, Jr.)
FB	13	Joel Armstrong (5-11, 190, Sr.)
TB	28	C.J. Ugokwe (5-11, 220, So.)
LT	67	Preston Thompson (6-5, 290, Fr.)
LG	72	Robby Heos (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C	73	Austin Wilkinson (6-2, 270, Jr.)
RG	63	David Berken (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RT	68	Lute Barber (6-7, 300, Sr.)
TE	84	Taylor Wardlow (6-5, 205, So.)
WR	81	Jarett Dillard (5-11, 180, Jr.)
WR	3	Toren Dixon (6-2, 220, So.)

DEFENSE

DE	21	Dietrich Davis (6-2, 245, Jr.)
NG	99	George Chukwu (6-2, 300, Sr.)
DT	58	Jonathan Cary (6-3, 290, Sr.)
DE	40	James Casey (6-4, 245, Fr.)
SLB	31	Brian Raines (6-1, 220, Jr.)
MLB	36	Vernon James (6-1, 220, Jr.)
KAT	29	Carl Taylor (6-1, 200, Jr.)
BCB	9	Ja'Corey Shepherd (5-11, 180, So.)
FCB	24	Christopher Douglass (5-9, 175, So.)
FS	20	Bencil Smith (5-11, 195, Jr.)
SS	30	Andrew Sendejo (6-2, 210, So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	46	Clark Fangmeier (5-11, 180, So.)
P	41	Luke Juist (6-1, 210, Sr.)

Jarett Dillard hit the lottery last season. When Rice switched from an option to an air-it-out offense, he was the Owl who got to spread his wings.

In 2005, Dillard caught 35 balls for 524 yards. But last season, he exploded for 91 catches, 1,247 yards and set school and Conference USA records with a nation-leading 21 touchdown receptions.

Dillard had the second-most catches in Division I-A last season and helped spark Rice to the nation's second-biggest turnaround. The Owls went from 1-10 in 2005 to 7-6 last season. Only Wake Forest made a bigger leap.

Coach Todd Graham got off to a rough start in his inaugural season. He lost his first four games, but then watched the Owls win six times in a seven-game span to secure their first bowl trip since 1961.

That means Rice should enter 2007 riding a wave of positive energy, right? Well, sort of. The Owls will have to prove they can win without Graham, who bolted to Tulsa.

The new man in charge at Rice is David Bailiff, who was the defensive coordinator at TCU before serving a three-year tour of duty as head coach at Texas State.

Bailiff's defenses ranked among the best in the country when he was at TCU and Rice's unit could use a tune-up. The Owls return five starters from a defense that ranked 112th in scoring and rushing defense and 91st in pass defense last season. How did this team manage a bowl trip with such unflattering statistics? The Owls camouflaged their deficiencies by ranking second among C-USA teams and 21st nationally in turnover margin.

Bailiff will stick with the spread offense used by the previous regime. That should make Dillard (who has TD receptions in 15 consecutive games) and quarterback Chase Clement happy.

TULANE GREEN WAVE

#6

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Bob Toledo
1st Year
Career Record: 49-32 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Louisiana Superdome
Tickets: 504-861-WAVE
Capacity: 64,900
Official athletic Web site:
www.tulanegreenwave.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4
2005	2
2004	5
2003	5
2002	8

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 8	**Mississippi State**	32-29
S. 15	**Houston**	7-45
S. 22	**SE Louisiana**	
S. 29	**LSU**	7-49
O. 6	@ARMY	42-28
O. 13	@UAB	
O. 20	@SMU	28-33
O. 27	**Memphis**	
N. 3	**Tulsa**	3-38
N. 10	**UTEP**	20-34
N. 17	@RICE	38-24
N. 24	@EAST CAROLINA	

GAME TO WATCH

The Bob Toledo Era begins with a game against an SEC squad that has struggled in recent years.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **48/17**

OFFENSE

QB	4	Scott Elliott (6-2, 225, r-Jr.)
TB	25	Matt Forté (6-2, 225, Sr.)
FB	49	Jeremy McKinney (6-1, 230, So.)
LT	77	Troy Kropog (6-6, 305, r-Jr.)
LG	65	Michael Parenton (6-3, 304, r-Jr.)
C	51	Aryan Barto (6-4, 280, r-Sr.)
RG	70	Travis Olexa (6-4, 297, r-So.)
RT	58	Pete Hendrickson (6-7, 280, r-Fr.)
TE	5	Gabe Ratcliff (6-3, 245, Jr.)
SE	83	Brian King (6-2, 185, Jr.)
FL	20	Jeremy Williams (6-2, 194, r-So.)

DEFENSE

LE	93	Logan Kelley (6-2, 245, So.)
LT	99	Frank Morton (6-3, 327, Sr.)
RT	56	Avery Williams (6-2, 290, Sr.)
RE	57	Antonio Harris (6-3, 285, Sr.)
SLB	41	Cody Sparks (6-4, 247, So.)
MLB	34	Evan Lee (6-2, 232, Jr.)
WLB	10	James Dillard (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LCB	14	Carlis Jackson (5-11, 180, Sr.)
RCB	12	Josh Lumar (5-11, 178, Jr.)
FS	33	David Skehan (6-1, 207, Jr.)
SS	18	Joe Goosby (6-1, 218, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	47	Ross Thevenot (6-0, 186, So.)
P	47	Ross Thevenot (6-0, 186, So.)

The Tulane football program is rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The new man in charge of the reconstruction project is Bob Toledo.

Tulane is 6-17 overall and 3-13 in league games since Katrina visited campus. Katrina deserves a share of the blame. The Green Wave didn't get to play a home game in 2005. And it's fair to assume that post-hurricane recruiting was negatively affected because parents wondered if they should send their children to a city that had to be rebooted.

Former Coach Chris Scelfo was dismissed after a 2006 season in which the Green Wave was outscored 400-224. Athletic Director Rick Dickson said he interviewed 16 candidates before hiring Toledo, the former UCLA head coach.

Toledo has ample work to do if he wants to add to a résumé that includes 13 bowl trips. Tulane was a triple-digit team in many NCAA statistical categories last season, ranking 113th in scoring and pass defense, 108th in total defense, 105th in rushing offense and 112th in turnover margin.

Senior running back Matt Forté and sophomore receiver Jeremy Williams (40 catches, 484 yards as a freshman) are the only skill position starters returning. Forté averaged 5.3 yards per carry last season and accumulated 859 rushing yards before missing the last two games due to an injury. He enters his final season as the seventh-leading rusher in school history. Three offensive line starters return, including honorable mention all-league center Michael Parenton.

Eight defensive starters are back. Among them is junior safety David Skehan, a former walk-on who led the Green Wave with 80 tackles last season. Defensive linemen Antonio Harris and Frank Morton, safety Joe Goosby and linebacker Evan Lee were honorable-mention all-conference players in 2006.

PAC-10

www.pac-10.org

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — P. 94, STOCK: UP
2. CALIFORNIA — P. 96, STOCK: STEADY
3. UCLA — P. 98, STOCK: UP
4. OREGON STATE — P. 100, STOCK: STEADY
5. OREGON — P. 102, STOCK: STEADY
6. ARIZONA STATE — P. 103, STOCK: UP
7. ARIZONA — P. 104, STOCK: STEADY
8. WASHINGTON — P. 104, STOCK: STEADY
9. WASHINGTON STATE — P. 105, STOCK: DOWN
10. STANFORD — P. 105, STOCK: UP

Can Pac-10 football get much better? Watch and learn in 2007

By **JON WILNER**
San Jose Mercury News

The rebirth continues for the Pacific-10 Conference. Just a few months after its best men's basketball showing in years, the league looks poised to build on that success with its finest football season in recent memory.

It starts at the top, of course, with a USC team that returns 18 starters and should be No. 1 in all the preseason polls. But unlike previous years, when the Trojans were the class of a mediocre conference, quality depth is sprouting up throughout the league.

The best of the second-tier teams could be California, which has its sights on the Bowl Championship Series. The Bears return 16 starters from the team that pounded Texas A&M in the Holiday Bowl last year. They won't have to wait long for a chance to avenge their 2006 defeat at Tennessee. The Volunteers visit Berkeley on Sept. 1.

Adding to the Pac-10's quality depth are UCLA and Oregon State, two teams that did last year what Arkansas, Nebraska, Notre Dame and Michigan could not do: they beat USC. The Bruins have 20 starters returning and are a BCS contender. If Oregon State finds a quarterback, then it could overtake both UCLA and Cal.

That's four teams that should win at least eight games this season. If there were a significant drop-off at that point, we wouldn't be talking about the Pac-10's continuing rebirth.

But there is little separating the second tier from Oregon and Arizona State, which has a new coach with a familiar name: Dennis Erickson. And there might be even less separating those teams from Arizona.

The Pac-10 will have plenty of chances to prove itself. Among the opponents this season are Ohio State, Michigan, Wisconsin, Notre Dame, Boise State, Nebraska and Tennessee.

Only once in its history has the league sent seven teams to bowl games. In 2002, USC was in the Orange Bowl and Washington State in the Rose. Don't be surprised if it happens this season.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. USC ▸ If this comes as a surprise, welcome to Earth. The Trojans signed the top player in the country at four positions, along with the No. 2 tailback (Marc Tyler) and the No. 3 quarterback (Aaron Corp).

2. OREGON ▸ Needed to restock on the defensive line and did just that. Myles Wade, who had an offer from Florida, leads the way.

3. CALIFORNIA ▸ Jahvid Best is the latest elite tailback to join Cal's 1,000-yard-season caravan. Shane Vereen is also well regarded, but could switch to cornerback.

4. UCLA ▸ Signed just 10 players, but the quality is high due partly to defensive tackle Brian Price, who picked UCLA over USC.

5. WASHINGTON ▸ Coach Tyrone Willingham needed a solid class to keep his critics quite, and he got one that has quantity and quality. The big name is receiver Anthony Boyles.

6. OREGON STATE ▸ Huge class (more than 30 players) includes several junior-college transfers and prospects who weren't considered top-notch quality. But a program that usually features superb defensive backs got another one in cornerback David Ross.

7. ARIZONA STATE ▸ Dennis Erickson's first class was solid given the circumstances. And here's betting that he'll make a player out of quarterback Chasen Stangel.

8. ARIZONA ▸ Wildcats are bringing in a mess of receivers, but unless Coach Mike Stoops starts winning, he won't be around when the recruits are upperclassmen.

9. STANFORD ▸ New Coach Jim Harbaugh got the nation's No. 1 kicker in David Green, but the Cardinal once again failed to land the kind of talent that will turn a program around.

10. WASHINGTON STATE ▸ The headliner is safety Terry Mixon, a junior-college transfer from Grossmont (Calif.) College whose brother, Tim, played for Cal.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-PAC-10 TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	John David Booty, Sr., USC	Sedrick Ellis, Sr., USC	DL
RB	Yvenson Bernard, Sr., Oregon State	Bruce Davis, Sr., UCLA	DL
RB	Jonathan Stewart, Jr., Oregon	Lawrence Jackson, Sr., USC	DL
OL	Sam Baker, Sr., USC	Fili Moala, Jr., USC	DL
OL	Alex Mack, Jr., Cal	Brian Cushing, Jr., USC	LB
OL	Jeremy Perry, Jr., Oregon State	Keith Rivers, Sr., USC	LB
OL	Roy Schuening, Sr., Oregon State	Derrick Doggett, Sr., Oregon State	LB
OL	Max Unger, Jr., Oregon	Antoine Cason, Sr., Arizona	DB
WR	DeSean Jackson, Jr., Cal	Chris Horton, Sr., UCLA	DB
WR	Sammie Stroughter, Sr., Oregon State	Terrell Thomas, Sr., USC	DB
TE	Craig Stevens, Sr., Cal	Josh Barrett, Sr., Arizona State	DB
PK	Alexis Serna, Sr., Oregon State	Andrew Larson, Sr., Cal	P

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. USC's closest call on the way to an undefeated season will be at Arizona State. The game is sandwiched between showdowns at Cal and against UCLA—perfect time for a letdown.

2. Cal will make the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1959. With USC headed to the BCS Championship Game, the Rose Bowl will gladly give an at-large spot to the Golden Bears.

3. Oregon's Jonathan Stewart will emerge as the league's best player. He's 230 pounds of speed and power, a former mega-recruit who will lead the conference in rushing with more than 1,400 yards.

4. The Stanford Cardinal will win a home game. Stanford lost all five games in its newly renovated stadium in 2006 and hasn't won on campus since October 2005. But the Cardinal will have eight chances this fall, including four in a row to start the season.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
DeSean Jackson, Cal

BEST HANDS
Sammie Stroughter, WR, Oregon State

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
John David Booty, USC

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Dennis Dixon, Oregon

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Justin Forsett, Cal

BEST INSTINCTS
Antoine Cason, CB, Arizona

BEST ATHLETE
DeSean Jackson, WR, Cal

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Alexis Serna, K, Oregon State

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Sam Baker, OT, USC

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Chris Galippo, LB, USC

HARDEST HITTER
Rey Maualuga, LB, USC

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TOP 25 SELECTION

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 11-2 » **PAC-10:** 7-2 *(beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl, 32-18)*

Los Angeles **Stadium:** Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (92,000) **Tickets:** 213-740-GOSC

DE › Lawrence Jackson

Finding flaws with these Trojans is an almost-impossible task

The window, it appears, has closed. It has shut on the rest of the Pac-10 members and possibly the entire nation.

USC, which was vulnerable last season—the Trojans lost two games and did not play for the Bowl Championship Series title—should be close to indestructible in 2007.

That's bad news for West Virginia, Texas, Wisconsin, LSU and anyone else with an eye on the national title.

And it's very, very bad news for Cal, UCLA, Oregon State and any other Pac-10 team hoping to overtake the league's five-time defending champs.

Loaded at every position, the Trojans won't only be better than they were in '06, they could be better than they've ever been under Coach Pete Carroll, who is 59-6 in the past five years, with one down season (6-6) in 2001, his first.

Yes, better than the Reggie Bush-and Matt Leinart-led offensive dynamo in 2005; better than the brilliantly balanced national champs of 2004; better than Carson Palmer's dominating '02 team.

Carroll knows it. He might even want to shout it from the top row of the Los Angeles Coliseum. But that wouldn't be smart, so he says things like, "We have the nucleus [returning] of a very successful team."

And Microsoft makes very successful software.

To a team that won 11 games, pounded Michigan in the Rose Bowl and finished No. 4 in the *AP* poll last season, the Trojans return 18 starters and 79 lettermen.

A defense that allowed a meager 74 points in its last six games returns 10 starters and several key reserves.

An offense that scored 32 points and gained 439 total yards against Michigan returns seven starters, including a Heisman Trophy candidate at quarterback, one of the top linemen in the nation and the deepest backfield on the planet.

And a program that has played for the national title in three of the past four years welcomes another top-rated recruiting class. (Who signs the No. 1 *and* 2 rated tailbacks in the country? That kind of thing just shouldn't happen.)

No wonder Dennis Erickson left Idaho. It wasn't because of the opportunity or money at Arizona State. It was because the poor Vandals open the season at USC, and anything less than a 60-point loss would be a victory. (OK, maybe money had something to do with it.)

Speaking of USC's schedule—it's not easy. As they do in odd-numbered years, the Trojans play at Notre Dame, at Oregon and at Cal. USC also visits Nebraska the second week of the season, which the Cornhuskers will be looking to avenge a 28-10 loss last year in the Coliseum. But other than Cal, the teams with the best chance of contending for the Pac-10 title (Oregon State and UCLA) have to visit Trojanland.

Navigating that kind of schedule requires experience, and the Trojans have it where it matters most: at quarterback, on the offensive line and everywhere on defense.

In fact, let's start with the defense, which should be absolutely dominant. Every starter returns but linebacker Dallas Sartz. And there's plenty of depth across the board—five reserves have starting experience. Look for this unit to be as stingy as the 2004 group, which allowed just 13 points per game.

"We expect great things from our defense in 2007," Carroll says. "It should be faster, bigger, stronger and deeper than last year. This should really be the strength of our team."

Not only does the line return intact, it also has back two of the top players at their positions in the country: All-America nose tackle Sedrick Ellis and end Lawrence Jackson (20 career sacks).

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	5

» **Head Coach: Pete Carroll**
7th Year (65-12) **Career Record:** 65-12

Official athletic Web site: www.usctrojans.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Idaho**	
S. 15	@NEBRASKA	28-10
S. 22	**Washington State**	28-22
S. 29	@WASHINGTON	26-20
O. 6	**Stanford**	42-0
O. 13	**Arizona**	20-3
O. 20	@NOTRE DAME	44-24
O. 27	@OREGON	35-10
N. 3	**Oregon State**	31-33
N.10	» **@CALIFORNIA**	23-9
N. 22	@ARIZONA STATE	28-21
D. 1	**UCLA**	9-13

» GAME TO WATCH «

Good chance that this will be USC's toughest game of the season (same goes for Cal, by the way).

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11
2005	12
2004	13
2003	12
2002	11

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **18**
Lettermen returning/lost: **79/18**

» OFFENSE		
QB	10	John David Booty (6-3, 210, r-Sr.)
FB	31	Stanley Havili (6-1, 220, r-Fr.)
TB	23	Chauncey Washington (6-1, 220, r-Sr.)
LT	79	Sam Baker (6-5, 305, r-Sr.)
LG	53	Jeff Byers (6-4, 285, r-Jr.)
C	69	Matt Spanos (6-5, 305, r-Sr.)
RG	66	Chilo Rachal (6-5, 315, r-Jr.)
RT	60	Drew Radovich (6-5, 305, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Fred Davis (6-4, 250, Sr.)
SE	1	Patrick Turner (6-5, 220, Jr.)
FL	7	Vidal Hazelton (6-3, 210, So.)
» DEFENSE		
DE	96	Lawrence Jackson (6-5, 270, r-Sr.)
NT	49	Sedrick Ellis (6-2, 305, r-Sr.)
DT	75	Fili Moala (6-5, 295, r-Jr.)
DE	84	Kyle Moore (6-6, 275, Jr.)
SLB	10	Brian Cushing (6-4, 240, Jr.)
MLB	58	Rey Maualuga (6-3, 250, Jr.)
WLB	55	Keith Rivers (6-3, 235, Sr.)
CB	7	Cary Harris (6-0, 180, Jr.)
CB	28	Terrell Thomas (6-1, 200, r-Sr.)
FS	2	Taylor Mays (6-4, 225, So.)
SS	4	Kevin Ellison (6-1, 225, Jr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	18	David Buehler (6-2, 225, Jr.)
P	44	Greg Woidneck (6-0, 200, r-Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

KIRBY LEE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Fili Moala should occupy the other tackle position, with several players competing for playing time at the other end. Brian Cushing, who started there last season, has moved back to his natural position at outside linebacker to replace Sartz.

About those linebackers—they make up the best unit in the country. Cushing and Keith Rivers are on the outside (with their combined 21 tackles for loss last season), and Rey Maualuga is in the middle. The junior from Eureka, Calif., has had off-field troubles during his time at USC, but on the field he's a 250-pound, bone-crushing playmaker and future first-round draft choice.

If any of the above-mentioned trio gets hurt, the Trojans have options, and good ones, too. Senior Thomas Williams can play any position and has 10 career starts. There's also freshman Chris Galippo, who was only the best prep linebacker in the country last season.

"No doubt, this is the best position on the team," Carroll says.

He might get an argument from the secondary. The unit has been hit hard by injuries in recent years, forcing underclassmen into starting roles. Now healthy, there are four returning starters and two backups with starting experience. Taylor Mays and Kevin Ellison form one of the top safety tandems in the country—Josh Pinkard, who started in 2005, is also in the mix—and the same can be said about cornerbacks Cary Harris and Terrell Thomas.

"We have a lot of depth here," Carroll says, "and that's a beautiful thing."

But the deepest position on the team, by far, is tailback, where the Trojans go—we're not kidding here—10 deep. And seven of the 10 are former *Parade* All-Americans. Put it this way: the Trojans could lose their top seven tailbacks to injury and still have Joe McKnight and Marc Tyler, the top recruits in the county last year, available.

How do you keep them (Chauncey Washington, C.J. Gable, Emmanuel Moody and Hershel Dennis, and all the rest) all happy? Hey, that's why Carroll gets upwards of $3 million annually. Competition is the foundation of his program, and nowhere is that more evident than at tailback.

THE NEXT BIG THING

PATRICK TURNER, WR

Turner is already big. He's 6-5 and 220 pounds, with a long, graceful stride and superb hands. The top receiver in the recruiting class of 2004 and Nashville native shunned Tennessee and signed with the Trojans. He has 41 career catches.

Not even at quarterback, where two former prep All-Americans (sophomore Mark Sanchez and freshman Aaron Corp) will have to watch senior John David Booty try to become the third USC quarterback this decade to win the Heisman Trophy.

Booty, who waited behind Leinart, completed 61.7 percent of his passes last season, with 29 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He became the fourth USC quarterback to throw for more than 3,000 yards, but that was due to an erratic running game. The Trojans averaged just 128 yards per game on the ground, half of their 2005 total (with Bush and LenDale White).

This fall, Carroll and new Offensive Coordinator Steve Sarkisian want them closer to 200 yards a game, and they have the line to make it happen with two-time All-America left tackle Sam Baker and two other returning starters: right guard Chilo Rachal and right tackle Drew Radovich. (Speaking of Sarkisian, he takes full control of the offense after sharing it last season with Lane Kiffin, the new Oakland Raiders head coach. It's not a big loss for USC, as Sarkisian is the more respected offensive mind.)

The least-experienced unit, by far, is receiver, where the Trojans must replace Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith, the most productive tandem in school history (63 career touchdowns). Not that there isn't a load of talent waiting for the opportunity. Patrick Turner and Vidal Hazelton were the No. 1 receivers in the recruiting classes of 2004 and '05, respectively. The third wideout is Travon Patterson, who averaged 21 yards on his three catches last season.

"We have a lot of ground to make up," Carroll says. "But I like this group. It's our fastest group since I've been here."

The Trojans are in good shape on special teams, with one exception: They must find a replacement for kicker Mario Danelo, who fell to his death in January.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Trojans followed up *Street & Smith's* top-ranked recruiting class of 2006 with the No. 2 rating behind the national champion Florida Gators this time around.

There are several headliners, but four earned prep Top 50 All-America honors from *Street & Smith's* last year: utility back **Joe McKnight** (6-1, 195) from Louisiana, defensive lineman **Everson Griffen** (6-4, 265) of Arizona and two prime-time California prospects in linebacker **Chris Galippo** (6-3, 230) and running back **Marc Tyler** (6-0, 215). Tyler is expected to return to full strength after suffering a broken leg late last season and could also be tested at linebacker.

If those four standouts aren't enough, add to the mix quarterback **Aaron Corp** (6-4,195), the *CalHiSports.com* Player of the Year, touted Michigan defensive back/athlete **Ronald Johnson** (6-0, 180) and Arizona offensive lineman **Kristofer O'Dowd** (6-5, 315).

Running back **Broderick Green** (6-1, 235) of Arkansas and Canadian defensive end **Trey Henderson** (6-3, 265) will also join the Trojan ranks.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	USC	OPP
SCORING	396	197
Points Per Game	30.5	15.2
FIRST DOWNS	271	211
Rushing	96	68
Passing	159	125
Penalty	16	18
RUSHING YARDAGE	1664	1184
Yards gained rushing	1879	1560
Yards lost rushing	215	376
Rushing Attempts	416	399
Average Per Rush	4.0	3.0
Average Per Game	128.0	91.1
TDs Rushing	18	6
PASSING YARDAGE	3430	2662
Att-Comp-Int	447-273-11	436-238-11
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.1
Average Per Catch	12.6	11.2
Average Per Game	263.8	204.8
TDs Passing	30	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	5094	3846
Total Plays	863	835
Average Per Play	5.9	4.6
Average Per Game	391.8	295.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-650	38-695
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	21-130	17-147
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	11-90	11-164
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.2	18.3
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	6.2	8.6
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.2	14.9
FUMBLES-LOST	20-7	23-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	81-652	80-594
Average Per Game	50.2	45.7
PUNTS-YARDS	49-1838	68-2792
Average Per Punt	37.5	41.1
Net punt average	33.7	37.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:50	29:10
3RD-DOWN CONV.	82/178	74/191
3rd-Down Pct	46%	39%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	20/28	7/19
4th-Down Pct	71%	37%
SACKS BY-YARDS	35-229	17-109
MISC YARDS	131	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	50	21
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	16-17	16-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	44-48 92%	19-19 100%
ATTENDANCE	548880	353346
Games/Avg Per Game	6/91480	6/58891
Neutral Site Games		1/93852

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
USC	65	111	95	125	396
Opponents	28	56	47	66	197

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

John David Booty

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	144.00	436-269-9	61.7	3347	29	257.5

Mark Sanchez

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	89.89	7-3-1	42.9	63	0	10.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chauncey Washington	13	157	744	4.7	9	57.2
Emmanuel Moody	9	79	459	5.8	2	51.0
C.J. Gable	13	111	434	3.9	4	33.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Steve Smith	13	71	1083	15.3	9	83.3
Dwayne Jarrett	12	70	1015	14.5	12	84.6
Fred Davis	13	38	352	9.3	3	27.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Keith Rivers	13	47	38	85
Rey Maualuga	13	45	33	78
Dallas Sartz	13	41	29	70

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Dallas Sartz	13	7.0	44
Sedrick Ellis	10	4.5	37
Brian Cushing	13	4.5	33

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Taylor Mays	3	40	13.3	0
Terrell Thomas	2	7	3.5	0
Kevin Ellison	1	0	0.0	0

#2 CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

TOP 25 SELECTION

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 10-3 » **PAC-10:** 7-2 *(beat Texas A&M in the Holiday Bowl, 45-14)*

Berkeley **Stadium:** California Memorial Stadium (72,516) **Tickets:** 800-GO-BEARS

WR › DeSean Jackson

With Tedford back calling the plays, this could be Bears' season for big-time breakout

It was tough to determine which was worse on the final day of Cal's spring practice: the Berkeley weather or the Golden Bears' mood. On a cold, damp day in Strawberry Canyon (Cal's recreation area), everyone was grouchy. OK, maybe not everyone, just anyone affiliated with the offense.

That included Coach Jeff Tedford, who said, "It was a pretty poor day," while receiver Lavelle Hawkins added, "With all the guys we have coming back, we should have looked better."

Then again, it's all relative. Compared with what the Bears were five or 10 years ago—or with 100 other Division I-A teams—Cal looked good, looked sharp.

But these days the Bears consider their peers to be the top 10-15 teams in the nation—the Floridas and Ohio States, the Texases and USCs. And compared with them, yes, Cal might have some work to do before its critical season opener against Tennessee.

"We have got to work hard to get the mistakes out before that first game," Hawkins says. "Everyone knows they [Tennessee] aren't a pushover team. We went over there [last season] and they embarrassed us. We don't want that to happen again."

The Volunteers slapped Cal with a 35-18 loss in the 2006 opener, effectively eliminating the Bears from the national-title hunt. But if they can return the favor and beat Tennessee on Sept. 1 in Berkeley, then all things are possible.

Cal has the talent and experience to contend for a BCS bid and the Pac-10 title, just as it had the talent and experience in 2004 and 2006. During both of those seasons, the Bears' quest for the conference title ended with losses to USC in the Los Angeles Coliseum. This year, the Trojans come to Berkeley (Nov. 10) in what could be the biggest game Cal has played since its last Rose Bowl appearance, all the way back in 1959.

The Bears return eight starters on offense and five on defense. They have loads of depth and speed, thanks to several stellar recruiting classes. They also have a favorable schedule, a veteran quarterback (Nate Longshore) and the league's top playmaker (DeSean Jackson).

In short, Cal has enough talent to compete with the Trojans for a conference title, enough to beat Tennessee, enough to win 10 or more games. What it must do is what it hasn't done in years past—play well in big games.

"I think we have the ability and skill to do some things, but it all comes down to how hard we work and our attention to detail," Tedford says. "I'm confident we can be a good team, but there is a lot of work to be done."

For the first time since 2004, Cal will enter a season with a veteran quarterback. But Longshore, a junior who completed 227 passes last season, has plenty of room to improve—most notably with his mobility and decision-making under pressure. In Cal's three losses last season, he threw two touchdowns and six interceptions. In its 10 wins, he threw 22 and seven.

The other thing Longshore has to do is stay healthy. The backup quarterbacks, Kyle Reed and Kevin Riley, have thrown a combined zero college passes.

If Longshore is available each week, the Bears could surpass last season's averages of 32.8 points and 415.6 yards per game. The only personnel losses on offense are two linemen and one tailback. Granted, it was a pretty good tailback, 1,300-yard runner Marshawn Lynch. But the Bears should be so much better at other positions, especially quarterback, that they'll overcome Lynch's departure.

Lynch's replacement, senior Justin Forsett, averaged 5.3 yards per carry in limited action last season. Forsett does not have Lynch's power, but he's shifty, stronger than he looks at 186 pounds

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach:** Jeff Tedford
6th Year (43-20) **Career Record:** 43-20

Official athletic Web site: www.calbears.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	» Tennessee	18-35
S. 8	@COLORADO STATE	
S. 15	**Louisiana Tech**	
S. 22	**Arizona**	20-24
S. 29	@OREGON	45-24
O. 13	**Oregon State**	41-13
O. 20	@UCLA	38-24
O. 27	@ARIZONA STATE	49-21
N. 3	**Washington State**	21-3
N. 10	**USC**	9-23
N. 17	@WASHINGTON	31-24 (OT)
D. 1	@STANFORD	26-17

GAME TO WATCH

Revenge game for the Bears should show whether they'll challenge for the Pac-10 title and a BCS bid.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10
2005	8
2004	10
2003	8
2002	7

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **48/23**

» OFFENSE

QB	9	Nate Longshore (6-5, 233, r-Jr.)
FB	23	Will Ta'ufo'ou (6-0, 250, r-So.)
TB	20	Justin Forsett (5-8, 186, Sr.)
LT	53	Mike Gibson (6-5, 290, Sr.)
LG	63	Brian De La Puente (6-4, 306, r-Sr.)
C	51	Alex Mack (6-5, 300, r-Jr.)
RG	55	Noris Malele (6-3, 294, r-Jr.)
RT	79	Mike Tepper (6-7, 336, r-Jr.)
TE	82	Craig Stevens (6-5, 254, r-Sr.)
WR	11	Robert Jordan (5-11, 165, Sr.)
WR	1	DeSean Jackson (6-0, 166, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	91	Cody Jones (6-5, 255, r-So.)
DT	69	Matt Malele (6-1, 335, r-Sr.)
DT	98	Mika Kane (6-3, 297, Jr.)
DE	90	Tyson Alualu (6-4, 288, So.)
SLB	16	Justin Moye (6-1, 228, r-Sr.)
MLB	1	Worrell Williams (6-2, 256, r-Jr.)
WLB	15	Anthony Felder (6-4, 231, Jr.)
CB	7	Robert Peele (5-10, 187, r-So.)
CB	5	Syd'Quan Thompson (5-11, 178, r-So.)
FS	4	Thomas DeCoud (6-3, 195, r-Sr.)
ROV	2	Bernard Hicks (6-1, 198, r-Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	15	Tom Schneider (6-1, 191, r-Sr.)
P	11	Andrew Larson (6-2, 190. Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

MICHAEL PIMENTEL

and, Tedford believes, capable of handling a 20-carry-per-game workload. When Forsett needs a break, the Bears will turn to redshirt freshman James Montgomery.

"He's [Forsett] a real player," Tedford says. "We'll still have depth at tailback."

There is plenty of depth at receiver. What the Bears lack in size—no one is taller than 6-foot-2—they make up for with speed and big-play potential. The top playmaker of them all, the best in the Pac-10 and one of the best in the country, is Jackson, a junior from the famed Long Beach Poly program.

A brilliant punt returner, Jackson is similar to Reggie Bush and Ted Ginn Jr.; if given an inch, he can score from anywhere on the field. Last season, he averaged 18 yards per catch and scored a touchdown almost every seven times he touched the ball. He requires so much attention that it opens seams for Hawkins and Robert Jordan, who combined for 92 catches and nine touchdowns last season.

And don't forget about Craig Stevens, who is more than a second-team all-conference tight end. He's the heart, soul and toughness of the Cal offense. "There's a physical presence that he brings to the offense on the edge," Tedford says.

The Bears must replace the left side of their offensive line, but they have plenty of options. Look for Mike Gibson, who started at right tackle last season, to switch to the left. The projected starters elsewhere are guards Brian De La Puente and Noris Malele, tackle Mike Tepper and center Alex Mack, whose ability to play multiple positions gives the unit invaluable flexibility.

The Bears will continue to incorporate some aspects of the spread offense in 2007, as they did last season, but there is one notable change: Tedford will call the plays, just as he did in his first years in Berkeley. That should please the Cal faithful.

The defense will have the same play-caller as last year in coordinator Bob Gregory, whose unit must replace its three best players—tackle Brandon Mebane, linebacker Desmond Bishop and cornerback Daymeion Hughes.

Gregory is especially concerned about the situation up front. "Losing three starters and a real important guy [Mebane] always makes you nervous," he says. Mika Kane and Derrick Hill will compete for Mebane's job alongside steady senior Matt Malele.

Hughes' departure counts as the single-biggest loss on the roster because of his skill and the importance of the position. Redshirt sophomore Robert Peele emerged from spring practice as the starter, but he'll have plenty of competition for the job in training camp. The other cornerback, redshirt sophomore Syd'Quan Thompson, is a savvy veteran by comparison.

The Bears are in such good shape at safety with Bernard Hicks and Thomas DeCoud that Brandon Hampton is expected to slide over to cornerback.

"We have great candidates—it's just who emerges," Gregory says.

Replacing Bishop in the middle of the defense should not be a problem, as the Bears are loaded at linebacker. Worrell Williams, Justin Moye, Zack Follett, Greg Van Hoesen and Anthony Felder are all proven veterans.

The special teams are also in good shape. Jackson is one of the top punt returners in NCAA history (four touchdowns in 25 returns). Punter Andrew Larson was a second-team all-conference pick in 2006, while kicker Tom Schneider made 15-of-20 field goals, including all eight of his attempts from inside 40 yards.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» SYD'QUAN THOMPSON, CB

When Thompson was last seen on the national stage, he was getting burned by Tennessee's Robert Meachem. But the redshirt sophomore from Sacramento showed promise down the stretch, caused several turnovers and could be the Bears' next elite cornerback.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Golden Bears recruited a solid class that was ranked No. 15 nationally by *Street & Smith's*. The headliner has to be prep All-America running back **Jahvid Best** (5-10, 185), the northern California high school phenom who set Bay Area single-season rushing records of 3,325 yards and 48 touchdowns as a senior. He averaged 11.4 yards per carry.

Best is expected to be the next go-to back in the Cal offense, and he enters the program with high expectations.

Home-grown **Bryan Anger** (6-4, 195) is one of the nation's top punting prospects. He averaged 41.8 yards per punt as a high school senior and placed 11 inside the 20-yard line.

Also plucked from home soil were offensive linemen **Matt Summers-Gavin** (6-4, 285), **Mitchell Schwartz** (6-5, 305) and **Sam DeMartinis** (6-6, 280); wide receiver **Alex Lagemann** (6-2, 205), running back **Shane Vereen** (5-9, 175), defensive back **Chris Conte** (6-2, 185) and junior-college tight end **Skylar Curran** (6-5, 245).

Defensive ends **Cameron Jordan** (6-4, 245) of Arizona and **Ernest Owusu** of New Jersey and juco linebacker **Alex Cook** of Florida signed from out of state, along with tight end **Savai'i Eselu** (6-3, 245) of Hawaii.

The Bears brought in a balanced group of 25 prospects to receive a Top 25 class ranking for the fifth straight year.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	CALIFORNIA	OPP
SCORING	427	251
Points Per Game	32.8	19.3
FIRST DOWNS	263	238
Rushing	106	88
Passing	143	136
Penalty	14	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	2111	1630
Yards gained rushing	2355	1882
Yards lost rushing	244	252
Rushing Attempts	427	430
Average Per Rush	4.9	3.8
Average Per Game	162.4	125.4
TDs Rushing	21	11
PASSING YARDAGE	3292	3131
Att-Comp-Int	413-245-14	421-237-21
Average Per Pass	8.0	7.4
Average Per Catch	13.4	13.2
Average Per Game	253.2	240.8
TDs Passing	25	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5403	4761
Total Plays	840	851
Average Per Play	6.4	5.6
Average Per Game	415.6	366.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	29-595	45-1007
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	27-466	19-132
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	21-330	14-137
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.5	22.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	17.3	6.9
INT RETURN AVERAGE	15.7	9.8
FUMBLES-LOST	22-8	16-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	71-615	83-641
Average Per Game	47.3	49.3
PUNTS-YARDS	49-2087	63-2460
Average Per Punt	42.6	39.0
Net punt average	38.3	29.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:06	30:54
3RD-DOWN CONV.	69/163	54/167
3rd-Down Pct	42%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/12	14/25
4th-Down Pct	58%	56%
SACKS BY-YARDS	26-136	13-89
MISC YARDS	0	30
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	54	30
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	15-20	14-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	52-52 100%	29-30 97%
ATTENDANCE	450223	323950
Games/Avg Per Game	7/64318	5/64790
Neutral Site Games		1/62395

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
California	120	142	75	83	7	427
Opponent	43	83	55	70	0	251

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Nate Longshore						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	141.64	377-227-13	60.2	3021	24	232.4

Joe Ayoob						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
4	113.54	26-11-1	42.3	205	1	51.2

Steve Levy						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
3	125.44	10-7-0	70.0	66	0	22.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Marshawn Lynch	13	223	1356	6.1	11	104.3
Justin Forsett	13	119	626	5.3	4	48.2
Marcus O'Keith	9	22	104	4.7	1	11.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
DeSean Jackson	13	59	1060	18.0	9	81.5
Lavelle Hawkins	13	46	705	15.3	5	54.2
Robert Jordan	13	46	571	12.4	4	43.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Desmond Bishop	13	63	63	126
Daymeion Hughes	13	37	35	72
Mickey Pimentel	13	28	36	64

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Zack Follet	13	5.5	28
Nu'u Tafisi	13	5.5	24
Mickey Pimentel	13	4.5	16

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Daymeion Hughes	8	113	14.1	2
Desmond Bishop	3	79	26.3	0
Brandon Hampton	2	38	19.0	0

TOP 25 SELECTION

#3 UCLA BRUINS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 7-6 » **PAC-10:** 5-4 *(lost to Florida State in the Emerald Bowl, 44-27)*

Los Angeles **Stadium:** Rose Bowl (91,500) **Tickets:** 310-UCLA-WIN

QB › Ben Olson

Dorrell entering all-important fifth year with Bruins expected to produce big-time results

This is it for Bruins Coach Karl Dorrell. This is the year we will find out, once and for all, whether he can get it done in Westwood over the long term. Everything is stacked in favor of the Bruins having a good season—a very good season.

Dorrell is in his fifth year, which means the roster is his. No more Bob Toledo recruits. Dorrell has 10 returning starters on offense and 10 on defense. He has not one, but two, quarterbacks who have proven they can play in the Pac-10. And Dorrell has a schedule that can only be described as custom-made, as the Bruins should be 4-0 heading into a Sept. 29 showdown at Oregon State. Most of their league road games are against lower-echelon teams, and they get Notre Dame, Cal and Oregon at home.

The Bruins won't be the best team in their city, but they could be the second best in their conference and one of the 20 best in the country. If they don't win at least eight games, something's wrong.

"I feel we're at the point where we have the talent and the depth in the program to do something special," Dorrell says. "We have quality experience at virtually every position on both sides of the ball."

In Pac-10 circles, there are those who believe Dorrell is overmatched as a coach, but he has proven himself to be a deft manager. This has manifested itself in his handling of the coaching staff.

When the Bruins struggled offensively in his first years as coach, Dorrell hired Tom Cable, who turned UCLA into a scoring machine before bolting after the 2005 season for an NFL coaching spot. When the Bruins struggled on defense two years ago, Dorrell went out and hired DeWayne Walker, who turned them into one of the stingiest units in the land.

Dorrell made yet another major staff change this offseason. He dismissed Jim Svoboda as offensive coordinator. Svoboda had taken over for Cable and proved to be overmatched as a play-caller. In his place comes Jay Norvell, straight from Bill Callahan's staff at Nebraska. How quickly the Bruins learn Norvell's system—and how well he teaches it—will shape the season.

The defensive unit allowed just 19.9 points and 314.5 yards per game last year, so the Bruins should contain just about everyone they face. If the offense can manage 27-30 points a game—that's not asking a lot in the Pac-10—then UCLA should have a successful season.

But if the offense sputters and the Bruins get dragged into low-scoring affairs in which their margin for error is miniscule, then the losses could mount, and so could the heat on Dorrell.

Remember, he has had just one above-average season in four years at UCLA, in 2005, when Drew Olson and Maurice Jones-Drew powered the Bruins to 10 wins. Otherwise, UCLA has been just above, just below or right at .500, and .500 won't cut it when your sworn enemy across town has averaged 12 wins a year the past four seasons.

Redshirt junior Ben Olson was named the Bruins' starting quarterback after spring drills, beating out classmate Pat Cowan. Olson started last season and played fairly well until he suffered a season-ending knee injury in the fifth game. Cowan took over and started the final eight, throwing for 11 touchdowns and nine interceptions. Essentially, the Bruins have two experienced quarterbacks who have yet to prove they are among the league's elite. One of them must make that jump for UCLA to contend for an upper-division finish. That won't be easy with a new system.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

» **Head Coach: Karl Dorrell**
5th Year (29-21) **Career Record:** 29-21

Official athletic Web site: www.uclabruins.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@STANFORD	31-0
S. 8	**Brigham Young**	
S. 15	@UTAH	31-10
S. 22	**Washington**	19-29
S. 29	@OREGON STATE	25-7
O. 6	» **Notre Dame**	17-20
O. 20	**California**	24-38
O. 27	@WASHINGTON STATE	15-37
N. 3	@ARIZONA	27-7
N. 10	**Arizona State**	24-12
N. 24	**Oregon**	20-30
D. 1	@USC	13-9

GAME TO WATCH

A must-see game as Notre Dame makes its first appearance in the Rose Bowl since the 1920s.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7
2005	10
2004	6
2003	6
2002	8

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **21**
Lettermen returning/lost: **49/12**

» OFFENSE		
QB	7	Ben Olson (6-5, 227, Jr.)
FB	32	Michael Pitre (6-0, 244, r-Sr.)
TB	28	Chris Markey (5-11, 204, Sr.)
LT	73	Micah Kia (6-5, 304, So.)
LG	74	Noah Sutherland (6-5, 299, r-Sr.)
C	60	Chris Joseph (6-5, 282, Sr.)
RG	71	Shannon Tevaga (6-3, 316, Sr.)
RT	78	Aleksey Lanis (6-6, 316, r-So.)
TE	86	Logan Paulsen (6-5, 247, Jr.)
SE	9	Marcus Everett (6-1, 196, Sr.)
FL	1	Brandon Breazell (6-0, 156, Sr.)
» DEFENSE		
LE	96	Nikola Dragovic (6-3, 256, r-Sr.)
DT	93	Brigham Harwell (6-2, 286, Sr.)
DT	75	Kevin Brown (6-2, 293, r-Sr.)
RE	44	Bruce Davis (6-3, 237, r-Sr.)
SLB	42	Aaron Whittington (6-2, 215, Sr.)
MLB	33	Christian Taylor (6-0, 222, r-Sr.)
WLB	51	Reggie Carter (6-1, 218, r-So.)
LCB	23	Trey Brown (5-9, 185, r-Sr.)
RCB	3	Rodney Van (5-11, 170, Sr.)
FS	11	Dennis Keyes (6-2, 194, r-Sr.)
SS	14	Chris Horton (6-1, 210, r-Sr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	15	Kai Forbath (6-0, 193, r-Fr.)
P	17	Aaron Perez (6-4, 219, r-Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

SHELLY CASTELLANO / ICON SMI

THE NEXT BIG THING

MARCUS EVERETT, WR

Everett started eight games last season and caught 31 passes, five of which went for touchdowns. He enters the 2007 season with a reception in 18 consecutive games.

"Quarterbacks need time to refine their skills and gain experience in the system," Dorrell says. "Both Patrick and Ben did a nice job for us [last year] given the circumstances. ... [But] both players know they must compete at a high level on a daily basis."

They will have plenty of support from the other positions. Tailback Chris Markey is back after rushing for 1,107 yards last season. He also caught a team-high 35 passes. But Markey suffered a stress fracture in his right foot during spring practice. Although he's expected to be 100 percent by the time training camp starts, the foot is a concern.

Granted, Markey's health would be more of a worry if the Bruins weren't bringing back starting receivers Marcus Everett and Brandon Breazell, who combined for 52 catches last season, plus an offensive line that returns 13 of the 14 players listed on last year's Emerald Bowl depth chart.

If the quarterbacks don't have time to throw and if the running backs don't have lanes available, UCLA has no excuses. This should be one of the top offensive lines in the conference. The best of the bunch is right guard Shannon Tevaga, who has started 31 consecutive games. Noah Sutherland, Aleksey Lanis, Brian Abraham and a host of others join Tevaga up front. Chris Joseph, who started at guard last year, is expected to fill the vacant center position.

Say this for the big fellas up front: they won't face many better defensive lines than the one they see in practice each day. The playmaker is senior end Bruce Davis, who had 12.5 sacks last season (fourth nationally). Kevin Brown and Brigham Harwell are run-stopping tackles who, although slightly undersized at 293 and 286 pounds, respectively, are quick on their feet.

UCLA's only concern is filling all-league end Justin Hickman's position. Junior Kenneth Lombard and senior Nikola Dragovic are the leading contenders. If they can hold their own, especially with all the talent and experience around them, there's no reason the Bruins can't duplicate last year's success when they held opponents to 2.8 yards per rush, tops in the conference.

"Our defensive improvement a year ago started up front," Dorrell says. "We played with improved technique, strength and focus."

The back seven returns intact. Middle linebacker Christian Taylor had 83 tackles last year, 11 of them coming in the upset of USC. Taylor is flanked by Aaron Whittington and Reggie Carter, who was named to several Freshman All-America teams. He's probably the most gifted of UCLA's linebackers, but Taylor's leadership is invaluable.

The same is true of strong safety Chris Horton, a second-team all-conference pick in 2006. He led the Bruins in tackles (95) and had three interceptions. There aren't many better defensive backs in Pac-10 than Horton, just as there aren't many better defensive backfields in the league than UCLA's. Free safety Dennis Keyes is a playmaker, and cornerbacks Rodney Van and Trey Brown are first-rate. And did we mention that all four returning starters are seniors? Throw at the Bruins at your own risk.

There are some questions on special teams, however. The Bruins must replace All-America kicker Justin Medlock, who made 28 of his 32 field-goal attempts and both of his tries from 50 yards or more. Redshirt freshman Kai Forbath and junior Jimmy Rotstein will compete for the job, but UCLA's late, close-game security blanket is gone. That's one reason the Bruins need to ramp up the offense and expand their margin for error.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Bruins signed just 10 prospects, but most come with quality tags in the recruiting game.

Two of the most touted were high school teammates at Crenshaw High in Los Angeles. All-purpose back **Raymond Carter** (5-11, 190) rushed for 2,543 yards over the past two seasons and displayed good pass-catching skills out of the backfield. **Brian Price** (6-3, 275), a defensive lineman, received high marks from talent evaluators and could be a college star alongside Carter.

Two other Los Angeles prep teammates round out the small class. Pass-rushing defensive end **Justin Edison** and linebacker/defensive end **Akeem Ayers** (6-2, 215) played together at Verbum Dei.

The Bears also landed an in-state quarterback who impressed at summer camps. **Chris Forcier** (6-3, 190) from St. Augustine High in San Diego was highly esteemed entering his senior prep season and could develop into a solid college quarterback.

Another newcomer from San Diego is tight end **Nate Chandler** (6-5, 225) of Mesa High. Defensive back **Glenn Love** (6-4, 205) of Arizona and two California prep products—linebacker **Steve Sloan** (6-3, 225) and offensive lineman **Mike Harris** (6-4, 310)—could also contribute.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	UCLA	OPP
SCORING	299	259
Points Per Game	23.0	19.9
FIRST DOWNS	228	227
Rushing	75	75
Passing	131	129
Penalty	22	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	1687	1184
Yards gained rushing	1968	1665
Yards lost rushing	281	481
Rushing Attempts	436	419
Average Per Rush	3.9	2.8
Average Per Game	129.8	91.1
TDs Rushing	11	9
PASSING YARDAGE	2604	2904
Att-Comp-Int	400-224-14	421-236-13
Average Per Pass	6.5	6.9
Average Per Catch	11.6	12.3
Average Per Game	200.3	223.4
TDs Passing	16	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	4291	4088
Total Plays	836	840
Average Per Play	5.1	4.9
Average Per Game	330.1	314.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	30-647	47-961
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-186	29-227
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-192	14-198
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.6	20.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.5	7.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	14.8	14.1
FUMBLES-LOST	26-9	19-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	83-781	85-694
Average Per Game	60.1	53.4
PUNTS-YARDS	63-2639	65-2640
Average Per Punt	41.9	40.6
Net punt average	36.1	36.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:25	30:35
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/183	50/176
3rd-Down Pct	36%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/11	14/27
4th-Down Pct	36%	52%
SACKS BY-YARDS	40-270	21-151
MISC YARDS	10	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	31	31
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	28-32	14-24
PAT-ATTEMPTS	29-29 100%	27-28 96%
ATTENDANCE	454683	324643
Games/Avg Per Game	7/64955	5/64929
Neutral Site Games		1/40331

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
UCLA	73	83	46	97	0	299
Opponents	44	76	63	76	0	259

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Patrick Cowan

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	113.40	276-145-9	52.5	1782	11	148.5

Ben Olson

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	124.64	124-79-5	63.7	822	5	164.4

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chris Markey	13	227	1107	4.9	2	85.2
Kahlil Bell	7	60	239	4.0	2	34.1
Patrick Cowan	12	54	108	2.0	2	9.0

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chris Markey	13	35	261	7.5	0	20.1
Marcus Everett	13	31	450	14.5	5	34.6
Junior Taylor	13	28	331	11.8	3	25.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Chris Horton	13	64	31	95
Christian Taylor	13	45	38	83
Dennis Keyes	13	60	19	79

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Justin Hickman	13	12.5	97
Bruce Davis	13	12.5	75
Christian Taylor	13	4.5	29

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Trey Brown	4	38	9.5	0
Chris Horton	3	9	3.0	0
Al Verner	2	123	61.5	2

TOP 25 SELECTION

#4 OREGON STATE BEAVERS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 10-4 » **PAC-10:** 6-3 *(beat Missouri in the Sun Bowl, 39-38)*

Corvallis **Stadium:** Reser Stadium (46,000) **Tickets:** 800-GO-BEAVS

TB › Yvenson Bernard

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	3

» **Head Coach:** Mike Riley
7th Year (38-34) **Career Record:** 38-34

Official athletic Web site: www.osubeavers.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**Utah**	
S. 6	@CINCINNATI	
S. 15	**Idaho State**	
S. 22	@ARIZONA STATE	44-10
S.29	» **UCLA**	7-25
O. 6	**Arizona**	17-10
O. 13	@CALIFORNIA	13-41
O. 27	**Stanford**	30-7
N. 3	@USC	33-31
N. 10	**Washington**	27-17
N. 17	@WASHINGTON STATE	6-13
D. 1	@OREGON	30-28

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

Winner probably stays in the Rose Bowl race; loser definitely drops out.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2005	5	
2004	7	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2003	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2002	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL

CONFERENCE TITLE BOWL NATIONAL TITLE

Formerly undisciplined OSU Beavers now living the good life for Riley

It's hard to believe that less than a year ago, Oregon State was floundering and Coach Mike Riley's job security was in question. The Beavers had been stomped at Boise State on national television. They had been humiliated by Cal and shut down by Washington State at home in consecutive weeks. Oregon State was 2-3 and headed downhill fast. Or so it seemed.

Then Riley engineered one of the most remarkable turnarounds in the Pac-10 this decade. The Beavers won eight of their next nine games, shocked USC, edged Oregon, finished third in the conference and beat Missouri in the Sun Bowl on a gutsy two-point conversion call by Riley.

But the turnaround story doesn't end there; it continues to this day. The Beavers return 17 starters and figure to be in the hunt for second place in the conference race. They have everything necessary to challenge USC for the title. Well, everything except a proven quarterback.

The uncertainty at that position—who will take over for Matt Moore?—is the reason the Beavers are picked fourth here and not second. Give them Cal's Nate Longshore or UCLA's Ben Olson, and they'd be slotted for No. 2 in the league.

"At just about every position, we have built depth that is the foundation for this season and future ones," Riley says. "We need to solidify a couple positions, particularly quarterback, but even there I have a lot of confidence in the players competing for the starting job."

And for the first time in several seasons, the OSU faithful have confidence in Riley. It might not last past the first loss, but at least it's there for the season opener against Utah. The lack of discipline on and off the field that plagued the program over the previous five years—Riley personifies the term "players' coach"—disappeared down the stretch last season.

What was left was a simple, yet effective, formula in a very good coach, a senior quarterback and a roster of talented players who were passed over on the recruiting trails by the West Coast powers. Other than the occasional in-state stud, the Beavers must choose from second-tier recruits and junior-college players, then turn them into a team that can compete with the USCs, Oregons and Cals.

That's not easy, which explains why the Beavers were the doormat team in the Pac-10 for decades before gaining respectability under Riley during his first tenure in Corvallis and winning the 2001 Fiesta Bowl under Dennis Erickson. When Erickson bolted for the NFL and Riley returned to Corvallis (from the NFL), the expectations were higher than ever before. Riley's 3-8, 5-6, 8-5, 7-5 and 5-6 seasons did not sit well with fans who had a taste of success and wanted more, immediately.

That's why those two early-season home losses to Cal and Washington State put Riley's job in serious jeopardy. And that's why, fair or not, memories might get very short this fall if the Beavers struggle.

But as long as Oregon State gets decent play from its quarterback, whether it's Sean Canfield or Lyle Moevao, the Beavers will be fine. Both players are sophomores, but that's where the similarities end. Canfield is 6-4, a classic dropback passer in the mold of former Beaver Derek Anderson. Moevao is a tenacious 5-11 scrambler. Canfield is more experienced and the favorite to win the job, as he threw 45 passes last season, but don't be surprised if Riley uses both players.

"The key is to get [Canfield] repetitions and make him feel comfortable with the offense and the personnel around him," Riley says. "He will be a very good quarterback before his career is over."

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **61/13**

» OFFENSE

QB	5	Sean Canfield (6-4, 222, r-So.)
TB	26	Yvenson Bernard (5-9, 204, r-Sr.)
LT	76	Tavita Thompson (6-6, 319, r-Jr.)
LG	62	Jeremy Perry (6-2, 313, r-Jr.)
C	75	Kyle DeVan (6-2, 310, r-Sr.)
RG	67	Roy Schuening (6-4, 317, r-Sr.)
RT	69	Andy Levitre (6-3, 326, r-Jr.)
TE	83	Howard Croom (6-3, 248, So.)
SE	19	Sammie Stroughter (6-0, 183, Sr.)
SL	82	Brandon Powers (6-2, 218, r-Sr.)
FL	17	Anthony Wheat-Brown (6-1, 213, r-Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	93	Dorian Smith (6-3, 258, Sr.)
LT	99	Pernnell Booth (6-1, 305, r-Jr.)
RT	98	Curtis Coker (6-1, 299, r-Sr.)
RE	49	Jeff Van Orsow (6-4, 262, r-Sr.)
SLB	45	Derrick Doggett (6-3, 210, r-Sr.)
MLB	46	Alan Darlin (6-1, 254, Sr.)
WLB	45	Joey LaRocque (6-2, 218, Sr.)
LCB	6	Keenan Lewis (6-1, 199, r-Jr.)
RCB	36	Brandon Hughes (5-11, 178, r-Jr.)
FS	9	Al Afalava (5-11, 209, Jr.)
SS	39	Daniel Drayton (5-10, 204, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Alexis Serna (5-8, 170, r-Sr.)
P	18	Kyle Loomis (6-2, 197, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

TY WRIGHT / US PRESSWIRE

THE NEXT BIG THING

» SAMMIE STROUGHTER, WR

A senior from Sacramento, Calif., who was not heavily recruited coming out of high school, he's next best to Cal's DeSean Jackson. Stroughter is a receiver/returner who is a threat to score from anywhere on the field.

Canfield (or Moevao) will have very good talent around him. Tailback Yvenson Bernard is one of the best in the league, a 1,300-yard rusher with good hands (43 catches last year) and a knack for finding the end zone (13 total touchdowns).

The offensive line is better than solid, with four returning starters and a first-rate center/guard combination in Kyle DeVan and Jeremy Perry. The only hole to fill is at left tackle, where Tavita Thompson is the favorite to win the job.

With Bernard running behind that line, the Beavers can use their ground game to set up the pass, thus taking the pressure off of the rookie quarterback. And don't be surprised if Bernard wins the Pac-10 rushing title after finishing second to Marshawn Lynch last season. He'll probably get 325 carries, which could translate into 1,500 yards.

"Yvenson has really been the heart and soul of the offense over the last two seasons," Riley says. "We've been able to do a lot of things because of his ability as a runner, receiver and his overlooked blocking. He is one of the best players I have ever coached."

And yet, Bernard might not be the most gifted offensive player on the roster. Receiver Sammie Stroughter is a playmaker on par with Cal's DeSean Jackson. He averaged 17.5 yards per catch last season, caught 74 passes and returned three punts for touchdowns. He earned second-team all-league honors at both positions and should be a first-teamer this fall.

Joining the speedy Stroughter are veteran wideouts Anthony Wheat-Brown and Brandon Powers, who give the Beavers a physical presence on the edge. Both can be counted on to make third-down catches in traffic. And if OSU can control the ball with Bernard and the possession receivers, it'll be tough to stop, for the defense should be one of the league's best.

There are three holes to fill, two on the line and one in the secondary, where OSU must replace first-team all-conference safety Sabby Piscitelli. Bryan Payton and Al Afalava split time at the free-safety spot, and one could slide over. The other candidate for Piscitelli's job is senior Daniel Drayton.

The Beavers are set at cornerback with juniors Keenan Lewis and Brandon Hughes, and they are loaded at linebacker, which is probably the best unit in the league outside of USC.

All three starters return, including second-team all-conference performer Derrick Doggett, who had 14.5 tackles for loss, five sacks and three interceptions last season. Joey LaRocque starts on the weakside, with Alan Darlin in the middle. The trio started every game last season and combined for 257 tackles. And they can all run.

"We call ourselves the West Coast version of 'Linebacker U,' and this group solidifies that motto," Riley says. "If you are an offensive coordinator, you have to take into account our linebackers' abilities to rush the passer, yet drop into coverage."

The defensive front is looking for two starters to join tackle Curtis Coker and end Jeff Van Orsow, the man who tipped John David Booty's last-gasp pass to seal OSU's upset of the Trojans last year. Replacing Ben Siegert, who anchored the line, is Riley's chief concern.

The special teams should be among the Pac-10's best. It only seems like Alexis Serna has been around for a decade. But since his freshman-year flop at LSU, he has developed into a reliable kicker. Last year, Serna connected on 75.9 percent of his field goals, including a 58-yarder against Cal. With Stroughter around, the return units are in good shape.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Beavers landed a solid class anchored by quarterback **Jake Gelakoska** from Jackson High in Mill Creek, Wash. The 6-foot-3, 210-pound dual-threat signal-caller was a major recruiting target of the Oregon State coaching staff and could be the team's quarterback of the future.

Out of California, safety **Cameron Collins** (6-2, 195) of Santa Monica and fullback/linebacker **Ryan McCants** (6-2, 235) of Corona could also make an early impact.

The Beavers went the junior-college route to land a number of players up front, including offensive linemen **Michael Cole** (6-7, 300), **Jon Ioane** (6-5, 335) and **Una Smiley** (6-5, 275) and defensive linemen **Lalu Moaia** (6-2, 270) and **Sioeli Nau** (6-2, 295).

One California high school, Mt. Whitney, produced three Bears commitments: defensive end **Kyle Bell** (6-4, 230), linebacker **Keith Pankey** (6-2, 215) and linebacker/defensive end **Kevin Pankey** (6-5, 255).

Two recruits from Hawaii could also contend: linebacker **David Pa'aluhi III** (6-1, 215) and defensive back **Brandon Hardin** (6-2, 180).

In-state products who will compete for spots on the two-deep include linebacker **Will Darkens** (6-2, 220), defensive end/linebacker **Kevin Frahm** (6-2, 225) and tight end/defensive end **Carl Sommer** (6-4, 235).

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OREGON ST.	OPP
SCORING	389	311
Points Per Game	27.8	22.2
FIRST DOWNS	269	246
Rushing	101	95
Passing	150	125
Penalty	18	26
RUSHING YARDAGE	1655	1542
Yards gained rushing	2022	2089
Yards lost rushing	367	547
Rushing Attempts	474	444
Average Per Rush	3.5	3.5
Average Per Game	118.2	110.1
TDs Rushing	20	19
PASSING YARDAGE	3393	3132
Att-Comp-Int	425-259-9	430-233-17
Average Per Pass	8.0	7.3
Average Per Catch	13.1	13.4
Average Per Game	242.4	223.7
TDs Passing	20	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5048	4674
Total Plays	899	874
Average Per Play	5.6	5.3
Average Per Game	360.6	333.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	41-926	44-905
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	32-480	28-295
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-214	9-100
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	22.6	20.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.0	10.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	12.6	11.1
FUMBLES-LOST	23-16	29-16
PENALTIES-YARDS	88-837	81-697
Average Per Game	59.8	49.8
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2558	69-2815
Average Per Punt	41.3	40.8
Net punt average	33.9	32.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:30	28:19
3RD-DOWN CONV.	64/175	58/178
3rd-Down Pct	37%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/20	12/22
4th-Down Pct	55%	55%
SACKS BY-YARDS	47-342	35-222
MISC YARDS	0	10
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	46	38
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	22-29	15-22
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-45 100%	32-33 97%
ATTENDANCE	285808	306514
Games/Avg Per Game	7/40830	6/51086
Neutral Site Games		1/48732

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Oregon State	129	103	78	79	389
Opponents	55	115	69	72	311

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Matt Moore	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	14	139.75	378-229-7	60.6	3022	18	215.9

Sean Canfield	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	10	130.53	45-28-2	62.2	335	2	33.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Yvenson Bernard	13	296	1307	4.4	12	100.5
Clinton Polk	9	63	248	3.9	1	27.6
Ruben Jackson	11	10	95	9.5	0	8.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Sammie Stroughter	14	74	1293	17.5	5	92.4
Yvenson Bernard	13	43	276	6.4	1	21.2
Brandon Powers	14	39	433	11.1	1	30.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Joey LaRocque	14	44	54	98
Derrick Doggett	14	64	23	87
Sabby Piscitelli	14	53	22	75

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Dorian Smith	14	9.0	75
Alan Darlin	13	5.5	44
Derrick Doggett	14	5.0	36

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Sabby Piscitelli	5	35	7.0	0
Derrick Doggett	3	50	16.7	2
Daniel Drayton	2	11	5.5	0

#5 OREGON DUCKS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 7-6 » **PAC-10:** 4-5 *(lost to BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl, 38-8)*

Eugene **Stadium:** Autzen Stadium (54,000) **Tickets:** 800-WEB-FOOT

Bellotti to restore Ducks' swagger after bowl debacle

It was the ultimate nightmare for Oregon. Not only did a promising 2006 season go bad, it went bad against the worst possible teams at the worst possible times. A blowout loss against hated USC, an embarrassing home defeat to lowly Arizona, a heartbreaker to archrival Oregon State and a humiliating loss in a bowl game on national television.

So distressed was Ducks Coach Mike Bellotti after the Las Vegas Bowl that he called the first clear-the-air meeting of his tenure.

Months later, Bellotti was still smarting from that 0-4 finish in which his team—once considered a model program—was outscored 140-56 and justly accused of quitting in the postseason loss to BYU.

"I thought we lost our edge, and that edge can be a combination of confidence and mental toughness," says Bellotti, who's entering his 13th season and is the dean of Pac-10 coaches. "We need to develop greater mental toughness. We need to create that through grueling, competitive events."

Sounds like training camp will be more like boot camp for the Ducks. They need it; that's obvious. But at the same time, this isn't a program lacking in talent. Oregon returns 14 starters from a team that was, lest we forget, good enough to win seven of its first nine games in 2006 (with a little help from the replay officials).

If the Ducks stay healthy and get solid play from their quarterback, they could compete with Cal, UCLA and Oregon State for second place in the Pac-10.

No player in green and yellow needs more "mental toughness" than quarterback Dennis Dixon, whose 2006 season mirrored Oregon's. He was efficient and savvy early, skittish and sloppy late. It didn't help matters that the Ducks rotated in pocket passer Brady Leaf with the mobile Dixon; neither player was effective down the stretch.

Dixon figures to be the starter this fall, and he'll be working with a new play-caller. Gary Crowton, the former BYU coach who brought the spread to Eugene in 2005, bolted for LSU. So Bellotti, who has a keen eye for coaching talent, hired Chip Kelly from I-AA New Hampshire. Watch for the Ducks to use the no-huddle attack regularly. It suits Dixon's style and talent, and should make best use of the players around him.

Tailback Jonathan Stewart was a second-team all-league pick last season as a sophomore, when he averaged 5.4 yards per carry. A 1,400-yard season is well within reason for him.

The Ducks are well stocked at receiver, where Jaison Williams (68 catches last year) and Brian Paysinger (34) return. At 6-5 and 240 pounds, Williams is one of the most difficult matchups in the league. His size makes him a stellar possession receiver, but he has the speed to get downfield in a hurry. (Just ask Oklahoma, which Williams burned for 177 yards.)

The offensive line should be solid if the Ducks can find an answer at center, where they must replace two-time all-league selection Enoka Lucas. That won't be easy, given Lucas' talent and the increased demands placed on the center in a no-huddle, spread-formation attack (perhaps with some shotgun mixed in). At least Oregon is in good shape at left tackle, where veteran Max Unger will protect Dixon's blind side. Two other starters return: tackle Geoff Schwartz and guard Josh Tschirgi.

Defensively, the Ducks return seven starters. On the line, end Nick Reed and tackle David Faaeteete return, as well as end Victor Filipe, who missed all of the 2006 season with an elbow injury. The secondary is solid with Jairus Byrd, an honorable-mention all-conference player as a freshman last year, returning.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» JAIRUS BYRD, CB

The son of former NFL cornerback Gill Byrd was thrust into the starting lineup last year as a freshman. Jairus went on to intercept five passes, break up seven and become an honorable-mention all-league pick.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Myles Wade, DL, 6-2, 315** *Ducks land top in-state prospect.*
2. **Kenny Rowe, DE/LB, 6-2, 220** *Product of famed Long Beach Poly.*
3. **William Tukaufu, DL, 6-5, 275** *Junior-college star could start in 2007.*
4. **Terrell Turner, LB, 6-2, 225** *Los Angeles product came on strong in his senior year.*
5. **Charles Neal, RB, 6-1, 210** *Lone recruited tailback has all the skills.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

» Head Coach: Mike Bellotti
13th Year (97-48) **Career Record:** 97-48 (Division I-A)

Official athletic Web site: www.goducks.com

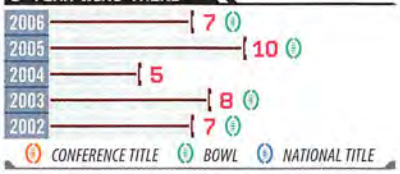
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Houston**	
S.8	**» @MICHIGAN**	
S. 15	**Fresno State**	31-24
S. 22	@STANFORD	48-10
S. 29	**California**	24-45
O. 13	**Washington State**	23-34
O. 20	@WASHINGTON	34-14
O. 27	**USC**	10-35
N. 3	@ARIZONA STATE	48-13
N. 15	@ARIZONA	10-37
N. 24	@UCLA	30-20
D. 1	**Oregon State**	28-30

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

Totally meaningless as far as the Pac-10 race is concerned, but a trip to the "Big House" is always a game to watch.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **50/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Dennis Dixon (6-4, 205, Sr.)
RB	28	Jonathan Stewart (5-11, 230, Jr.)
LT	60	Max Unger (6-5, 287, Jr.)
LG	61	Josh Tschirgi (6-4, 299, r-Sr.)
C	51	Jeff Kendall (6-3, 297, r-Jr.)
RG	66	Pat So'oalo (6-5, 332, r-Sr.)
RT	75	Geoff Schwartz (6-7, 337, Sr.)
TE	83	Ed Dickson (6-5, 240, r-So.)
WR	4	Jaison Williams (6-5, 240, r-Jr.)
WR	19	Brian Paysinger (6-2, 208, r-Sr.)
WR	21	Garren Strong (6-3, 203, r-Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	49	Nick Reed (6-2, 255, Jr.)
DT	90	David Faaeteete (6-2, 310, Sr.)
DT	91	Ra'Shon Harris (6-5, 321, r-Jr.)
DE	56	Victor Filipe (6-2, 282, r-Sr.)
WLB	34	A.J. Tuitele (5-11, 226, r-Sr.)
MLB	40	John Bacon (6-3, 227, r-Jr.)
ROV	15	Patrick Chung (5-11, 210, r-Jr.)
LCB	32	Jairus Byrd (5-11, 208, r-So.)
RCB	6	Walter Thurmond (6-0, 180, r-So.)
FS	9	Ryan DePalo (6-1, 206, r-Sr.)
SS	30	Kwame Agyeman (5-11, 205, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	41	Morgan Flint (5-9, 160, r-So.)
P	80	Josh Syria (6-3, 232, r-Jr.)

ARIZONA STATE

#6 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 7-6 » **PAC-10: 4-5** *(lost to Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl, 41-24)*

Stadium: Sun Devil Stadium (71,706) **Tickets:** 480-727-0000 **Tempe**

» **Head Coach: Dennis Erickson**
1st Year **Career Record:** 148-65-1

Official athletic Web site: www.thesundevils.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**San Jose State**	
S. 8	@COLORADO	21-3
S. 15	**San Diego State**	
S. 22	**Oregon State**	10-44
S. 29	@STANFORD	38-3
O. 6	@WASHINGTON STATE	47-14
O. 13	**Washington**	26-23 (OT)
0.27	» **@CALIFORNIA**	21-49
N. 3	**Oregon**	13-48
N. 10	@UCLA	12-24
N. 22	**USC**	21-28
D. 1	**Arizona**	28-14

» GAME TO WATCH «

Sun Devils have a brutal final month, so they might need this one to lock up—or say goodbye to—a bowl bid.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7
2005	7
2004	9
2003	5
2002	8

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **46/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Rudy Carpenter (6-2, 199, Jr.)
TB	26	Ryan Torain (6-1, 213, Sr.)
LT	62	Brandon Rodd (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	73	Robert Gustavis (6-3, 303, Sr.)
C	76	Mike Pollak (6-4, 292, Sr.)
RG	63	Paul Fanaika (6-6, 359, Jr.)
RT	78	Zach Krula (6-7, 320, Sr.)
TE	87	Brent Miller (6-5, 237, Sr.)
WR	1	Michael Jones (6-4, 208, Jr.)
WR	13	Chris McGaha (6-1, 189, So.)
WR	3	Rudy Burgess (5-10, 188, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	85	Kellen Mills (6-3, 243, Sr.)
DT	77	Michael Marquardt (6-4, 295, Sr.)
DT	90	David Smith (6-3, 280, Jr.)
DE	58	Dexter Davis (6-2, 247, So.)
SLB	44	Travis Goethel (6-3, 229, So.)
MLB	52	Morris Wooten (6-1, 237, Jr.)
WLB	25	Mike Nixon (6-3, 232, So.)
CB	23	Chris Baloney (6-1, 194, Sr.)
CB	4	Justin Tryon (5-10, 180, Sr.)
FS	22	Rodney Cox (6-1, 219, Jr.)
SS	7	Jeremy Payton (6-1, 210, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Thomas Weber (6-1, 202, r-Fr.)
P	35	Jonathan Johnson (6-1, 226, Sr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	3

Sun Devils hoping Erickson's loose ship will produce smooth trolling for victories

Rarely has a college football program been managed as poorly as Arizona State was over a nine-month span that began in December 2005.

That's when Athletic Director Lisa Love inexplicably gave Coach Dirk Koetter a contract extension despite a mediocre job performance.

Then Koetter botched the quarterback situation in training camp, naming senior Sam Keller the starter, but soon reversing course and handing the job to sophomore Rudy Carpenter.

Not surprisingly, Keller bailed, transferring to Nebraska, leaving Carpenter as the only experienced quarterback. He wasn't ready for the role, and after a flashy non-conference start, the Sun Devils lost back-to-back games to Cal and Oregon by a combined 97-34.

After another underachieving season, Koetter was cut loose—and because of Love's gaffe, ASU owed him millions.

Luckily for Love, Dennis Erickson was sitting in his office at Idaho with a tiny buyout. Arizona State scooped him up, and one of the most colorful and successful college coaches was back in the Pac-10.

Sure, Erickson is a proven winner, a gifted play-caller and a shrewd recruiter. But as anyone who has followed his career at Miami and Oregon State would attest, the man runs a loose ship.

So Arizona State is providing the football program with all the resources and support—especially academic support—it can muster. If the players stay eligible, healthy and out of trouble, then the Sun Devils could have a good season under Erickson.

They have 10 returning starters on offense, a veteran quarterback, depth at tailback, several playmakers on defense and a hugely favorable schedule: eight home games, including USC and Cal, and a fairly soft non-conference lineup.

The Sun Devils could win eight games, but no one should be surprised if they only win five—for this program has a knack for failing to meet reasonable goals.

Arizona State's success starts, naturally, with Carpenter, who played so well in relief of Keller in 2005, but then struggled last season after being handed the starting job. Yes, he threw 23 touchdowns and had an efficiency rating of 133.68, but the numbers were built on big games against bad opponents. In the crucible of Pac-10 play, he was erratic.

"He's very smart and talented; he's a gym rat," Erickson says. "He can do a lot of what we want to do because he's very athletic."

Carpenter probably won't have to scramble often. Arizona State returns a talented, veteran offensive line that features second-team all-conference center Mike Pollak and five players with starting experience.

Whichever quintet Erickson settles on will be blocking for the deepest set of tailbacks this side of USC. In breaking with their pass-happy ways, the Sun Devils rushed for 2,206 yards last season, the most in a decade. And the primary ball-carriers are back this fall: second-team all-league pick Ryan Torain and the elusive Keegan Herring.

That leaves one offensive unit to address, and it's the one with all the questions: receiver. The most experienced player is Rudy Burgess, but he spent half of last year in the secondary because of gaping holes there. Burgess is expected to be a full-time receiver this season, but is only 5-10 and hasn't proven himself to be among the league's elite.

Then again, it won't really matter how the receivers play if the defense gives up 40-something points every week or two—and that's essentially what happened in 2006. ASU allowed more than 40 points in four of its Pac-10 games and in its bowl game against Hawaii.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **KYLE WILLIAMS, WR**

Williams is a major all-purpose talent from Scottsdale who was supposed to redshirt last season as a freshman but was too good to keep out of the lineup. He averaged 21.8 yards on four catches.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Luis Vasquez, DE, 6-3, 250**
   Junior-college star is a sack-master.
2. **Omar Bolden, RB, 5-10, 185**
   Californian was highly recruited.
3. **Eric Tanner, DE, 6-2, 265**
   Another JC transfer who's in the Devils' plans.
4. **Morris Wooten, LB, 6-1, 235**
   Like Tanner, a local JC transfer.
5. **Chasen Stangel, QB, 6-0, 185**
   Size, not talent, is the only question.

Tucson » 2006 Record: 6-6 » PAC-10: 4-5

#7 » ARIZONA WILDCATS

PRESEASON RANK

What will be the most scrutinized, examined, protected and prayed-for body part in the Pac-10 this season? Willie Tuitama's cranium, of course.

Tuitama is arguably the most talented quarterback Arizona has ever had, but he suffered a serious concussion last season at LSU that never healed—and neither did the Wildcats.

They need Tuitama to play to his potential so Arizona can reach a bowl game for the first time since 1998, and fourth-year Coach Mike Stoops needs a good year from Tuitama to keep his critics at bay.

Stoops has yet to post a winning season since taking over for John Mackovic. He had a chance last season: the Wildcats were 6-5 entering the finale, and then got thumped by Arizona State.

But, hey, what do you expect with the No. 115 offense in the country? The Wildcats scored 30 points just once—same as Stanford.

To take the next step, Stoops has changed the offense, hiring Sonny Dykes as his play-caller and implementing a version of the spread offense run by Texas Tech. Tuitama could average close to 50 passes per game, which would play to Arizona's strengths—depth and speed at receiver, although there are no proven playmakers—and away from its weakness, the running game, which averaged a whopping 84.2 yards per game last year.

The Wildcats lost graduated receiver Syndric Steptoe, who was the heart and soul of the team and had 55 catches last season. But there are enough incoming and returning players, including Terrell Turner and Terrell Reese, to make the spread offense work.

Problem is, there isn't much time to get it right. The Wildcats open on the road at BYU, then plunge into league play in mid-September with a trip to Cal. Two weeks later, they play Oregon State and USC back-to-back on the road.

Head Coach: Mike Stoops
4th Year (12-24)
Career Record: 12-24
Stadium: Arizona Stadium
Tickets: 800-452-CATS
Capacity: 56,002
Official athletic Web site:
www.arizonaathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6
2005	3
2004	3
2003	2
2002	4

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	16-13
S. 8	**Northern Arizona**	
S. 15	**New Mexico**	
S. 22	@CALIFORNIA	24-20
S.29	**Washington State**	27-17
O. 6	@OREGON STATE	10-17
O. 13	@USC	3-20
O. 20	**Stanford**	20-7
O. 27	@WASHINGTON	10-21
N. 3	**UCLA**	7-27
N. 15	**Oregon**	37-10
D. 1	@ARIZONA STATE	14-28

GAME TO WATCH

With early-season trips to Cal, Oregon State and USC, 'Cats must win this one to avoid an 0-4 league start.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **19**
Lettermen returning/lost: **44/15**

OFFENSE

QB	7	Willie Tuitama (6-3, 220, r-Jr.)
RB	28	Chris Jennings (5-10, 225, Sr.)
HB	49	Earl Mitchell (6-2, 250, r-So.)
LT	76	Peter Graniello (6-5, 296, r-Sr.)
LG	68	Daniel Borg (6-5, 276, r-So.)
C	50	Blake Kerley (6-2, 275, r-So.)
RG	75	Joe Longacre (6-3, 303, r-Jr.)
RT	77	Eben Britton (6-6, 290, r-So.)
TE	86	Travis Bell (6-6, 245, r-Jr.)
WR	84	Terrell Turner (6-2, 175, r-Fr.)
WR	10	Mike Thomas (5-8, 175, Jr.)

DEFENSE

DE	1	Louis Holmes (6-6, 270, r-Sr.)
DT	96	Yaniv Barnett (6-1, 285, Sr.)
DT	54	Lionel Dotson (6-4, 278, r-Sr.)
DE	97	Johnathan Turner (6-3, 250, r-Jr.)
SLB	39	Dane Krogstad (6-2, 236, r-Sr.)
MLB	33	Ronnie Palmer (6-3, 239, r-Jr.)
WLB	51	Spencer Larsen (6-1, 236, r-Sr.)
CB	3	Wilrey Fontenot (5-9, 174, r-Sr.)
CB	5	Antoine Cason (6-1, 182, Sr.)
FS	8	Dominic Patrick (6-1, 207, Sr.)
SS	20	Cam Nelson (6-1, 180, r-So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Jason Bondzio (5-9, 168, r-Jr.)
P	47	Keenyn Crier (6-1, 185, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Seattle » 2006 Record: 5-7 » PAC-10: 3-6

#8 » WASHINGTON HUSKIES

PRESEASON RANK

Quarterback Isaiah Stanback's season-ending injury last October did more than derail a promising season for the Huskies. It changed the dynamics for Coach Tyrone Willingham. Had Stanback stayed healthy, the Huskies almost certainly would have reached a bowl game in Willingham's second season—way ahead of schedule. That would have given Willingham a free pass this fall in what should be a rebuilding year.

But Stanback's injury, and Washington's subsequent slide, means the pressure will be on Willingham this year. Not that his job is necessarily on the line, but a sour season would put him on the hot seat for 2008.

And unless a 19-year-old sophomore quarterback plays like a veteran, it could very well be a sour 2007 for the Huskies.

They should be more disciplined, better conditioned and deeper than in Willingham's first two seasons, but the early-season schedule is brutal—arguably the toughest in the country.

Washington opens at Syracuse and faces Boise State, Ohio State, USC and UCLA—all before Oct. 1. It's not difficult to imagine Washington taking an 0-5 record into the desert for a date with Arizona State Oct. 13. Then again, Willingham's teams usually win a game or two that they aren't supposed to.

The Huskies have an option if QB Jake Locker stumbles: senior Carl Bonnell, who started five games last season. But Locker is considered the future of the program.

Washington averaged just 3.8 yards per rush last season. If that number doesn't improve, then defenses will unload on Locker.

The defense is in no position to compensate for a sputtering offense. The line returns intact, but there are many questions at linebacker and in the secondary—far too many to name here.

Head Coach: Tyrone Willingham
3rd Year (7-16)
Career Record: 72-67-1
Stadium: Husky Stadium
Tickets: 206-543-2200
Capacity: 72,500
Official athletic Web site:
www.gohuskies.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	5
2005	2
2004	1
2003	6
2002	7

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 31	@SYRACUSE	
S.8	**Boise State**	
S. 15	**Ohio State**	
S. 22	@UCLA	29-19
S. 29	**USC**	20-26
O. 13	@ARIZONA STATE	23-26 (OT)
O. 20	**Oregon**	14-34
O. 27	**Arizona**	21-10
N. 3	@STANFORD	3-20
N. 10	@OREGON STATE	17-27
N. 17	**California**	24-31 (OT)
N. 24	**Washington State**	35-32
D. 1	@HAWAII	

GAME TO WATCH

With a brutal opening month, the Huskies might need this one to avoid an 0-5 start.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **12**
Lettermen returning/lost: **36/26**

OFFENSE

QB	10	Jake Locker (6-3, 210, So.)
FB	30	Paul Homer (6-0, 225, So.)
TB	9	Louis Rankin (6-1, 205, r-Sr.)
LT	79	Ben Ossai (6-6, 300, Jr.)
LG	70	Morgan Rosborough (6-6, 375, Jr.)
C	58	Juan Garcia (6-3, 315, r-Sr.)
RG	72	Casey Bulyca (6-6, 320, Sr.)
RT	75	Chad Macklin (6-8, 300, r-Sr.)
TE	86	Michael Gottlieb (6-5, 245, Sr.)
WR	5	Anthony Russo (5-11, 185, r-Sr.)
WR	3	Marcel Reece (6-3, 240, Sr.)

DEFENSE

DE	66	Daniel Te'o-Nesheim (6-4, 245, Jr.)
DT	95	Jordan Reffett (6-6, 295, r-Sr.)
DT	74	Wilson Afoa (6-3, 290, r-Sr.)
DE	7	Greyson Gunheim (6-5, 265, Sr.)
OLB	34	Dan Howell (6-1, 225, Sr.)
ILB	35	Donald Butler (6-1, 240, So.)
OLB	29	Chris Stevens (6-0, 215, Jr.)
CB	16	Jordan Murchison (6-0, 184, r-Sr.)
CB	28	Roy Lewis (5-11, 187, r-Sr.)
FS	26	Jason Wells (6-2, 210, Jr.)
SS	23	Mesphin Forrester (6-2, 205, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Ryan Perkins (6-0, 185, Jr.)
P	12	Jared Ballman (5-11, 175, Jr.)

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

#9

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Bill Doba
5th Year (25-22)
Career Record: 25-22
Stadium: Martin Stadium
Tickets: 800-GO-COUGS
Capacity: 37,600
Official athletic Web site:
www.wsucougars.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6
2005	4
2004	5
2003	10 (C)
2002	10 (C)(B)

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@WISCONSIN	
S. 8	**San Diego State***	
S. 15	**Idaho**	56-10
S. 22	@USC	22-28
S. 29	@ARIZONA	17-27
O. 6	**Arizona State**	14-47
O. 13	@OREGON	34-23
O. 27	**UCLA**	37-15
N. 3	@CALIFORNIA	3-21
N. 10	**Stanford**	36-10
N. 17	**Oregon State**	13-6
N. 24	@WASHINGTON	32-35

GAME TO WATCH

Dennis Erickson returns to the Palouse in a must-win game for the Cougars.

** at Seattle, WA*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **55/15**

OFFENSE

QB	10	Alex Brink (6-3, 215, r-Sr.)
RB	31	Dwight Tardy (5-11, 212, r-So.)
LT	55	Vaughn Lesuma (6-5, 340, Jr.)
LG	70	Bobby Byrd (6-7, 316, r-Sr.)
C	69	Kenny Alfred (6-2, 293, r-So.)
RG	74	Andy Roof (6-5, 299, r-Jr.)
RT	60	Dan Rowlands (6-5, 290, r-Jr.)
TE	41	Jed Collins (6-2, 251, Sr.)
SE	86	Charles Dillon (6-0, 190, Sr.)
SB	5	Michael Bumpus (6-0, 195, Sr.)
FL	4	Brandon Gibson (6-1, 204, Jr.)

DEFENSE

SE	9	Lance Broadus (6-2, 219, Sr.)
LT	75	Ropati Pitoitua (6-8, 291, Sr.)
RT	40	Aaron Johnson (6-7, 317, r-Sr.)
WE	96	Mike Graise (6-3, 214, r-Jr.)
SLB	38	Cory Evans (6-1, 227, Jr.)
MLB	52	Greg Trent (5-11, 219, Jr.)
WLB	51	Jason Stripling (5-11, 220, r-So.)
LCB	36	B.T. Walker (6-1, 167, r-Sr.)
RCB	32	Markus Dawes (6-0, 196, r-Sr.)
FS	23	Husain Abdullah (6-1, 178, r-Sr.)
SS	24	Christian Bass (6-2, 213, r-Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	19	R. Abdollmohammadi (6-0, 228, r-Sr.)
P	8	Darryl Blunt (6-0, 184, r-Jr.)

Not a winter goes by that there isn't a coaching change in the Pac-10, and from the who-will-it-be-this-winter file, may we present Washington State's Bill Doba.

Doba inherited a talented team from Mike Price, and in his four years the Cougars have won 10, five, four and then six games. Doba is well respected and well-liked within league circles, but he could be out of work come December if the Cougars struggle. And there's a good chance of that, beginning with the first game of the season.

One year after opening the season at Auburn, the Cougars head to Wisconsin, and the Badgers figure to be a top-10 team looking to pounce on the overmatched Cougs.

To survive the trip to Madison and have a successful season, WSU needs a big fall from senior quarterback Alex Brink. He should deliver, based on a solid performance in 2006 when he threw for 2,899 yards and was named second-team all-conference.

Brink will work behind an offensive line that returns three starters. He has a playmaker on the perimeter in receiver Michael Bumpus, but the Cougars will be hard-pressed to replace receiver Jason Hill and his 41 catches.

The running game must improve on its average of 128.3 yards per game in 2006. Tailback Dwight Tardy returns, and the Cougars might get a boost from Chris Ivory, who withdrew from school last fall for personal reasons.

The biggest loss, by far, is on the defensive line: end Mkristo Bruce (and his 11 sacks). The rest of the line returns, although a shoulder injury suffered in spring practice could keep Lance Broadus out for several games.

The Cougars should be solid at linebacker despite losing Scott Davis. The real concern is the secondary, which must find three new starters.

STANFORD CARDINAL

#10

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Jim Harbaugh
1st Year
Stadium: Stanford Stadium
Tickets: 650-723-1021
Capacity: 50,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.gostanford.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	1
2005	5
2004	4
2003	4
2002	2

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**UCLA**	0-31
S. 15	San Jose State	34-35
S. 22	**Oregon**	10-48
S. 29	**Arizona State**	3-38
O. 6	@USC	0-42
O. 13	**TCU**	
O. 20	@ARIZONA	7-20
O. 27	@OREGON STATE	7-30
N. 3	**Washington**	20-3
N. 10	@WASHINGTON ST.	10-36
N. 24	**Notre Dame**	10-31
D. 1	**California**	17-26

GAME TO WATCH

If Stanford loses to SJSU (again), it will be a long year (again).

PROJECTED STARTERS

Staters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **54/18**

OFFENSE

QB	13	T.C. Ostrander (6-3, 215, Sr.)
FB	32	Emeka Nnoli (6-1, 235, Sr.)
RB	26	Anthony Kimble (6-1, 200, Jr.)
LT	67	Allen Smith (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	72	Mikal Brewer (6-3, 300, Sr.)
C	62	Tim Mattran (6-5, 300, Sr.)
RG	60	Alex Fletcher (6-3, 300, Jr.)
RT	76	Ben Muth (6-6, 295, Jr.)
TE	83	Jim Dray (6-5, 240, So.)
WR	4	Mark Bradford (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	8	Evan Moore (6-7, 235, Sr.)

DEFENSE

DE	90	Udeme Udofia (6-4, 240, Sr.)
NT	95	Chris Horn (6-5, 270, Sr.)
DT	99	Levirt Griffin (6-4, 255, So.)
DE	91	Pannel Egboh (6-6, 280, Jr.)
OLB	20	Clinton Snyder (6-4, 230, So.)
MLB	44	Pat Maynor (6-2, 215, Jr.)
OLB	28	Peter Griffin (6-1, 215, Sr.)
CB	2	Nick Sanchez (6-0, 190, Sr.)
CB	31	Wopamo Osaisai (5-11, 200, Jr.)
FS	38	Austin Yancy (6-4, 195, So.)
SS	22	Bo McNally (6-0, 205, So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	12	Derek Belch (5-11, 195, Sr.)
P	27	Jay Ottovegio (6-0, 195, Sr.)

Before watching his team practice for the first time, Jim Harbaugh, Stanford's first-year coach, said he wanted to use spring practice to identify the players "that are going to win games for us and ... the players [that] can get you beat. We don't want them on the field."

By that definition, it's amazing Stanford was able to practice at all. The players at Harbaugh's disposal went 1-11 last season and got outscored by 250 points. The man responsible, Walt Harris, was dismissed after the season and replaced by Harbaugh, who has brought with him the energy he used to make the University of San Diego a feared I-AA team.

"It hasn't been as difficult as one might have expected," Harbaugh says of the transition. "We have talented guys. We have experienced guys, guys who have been there before and guys who have a deep desire to win."

Whether they have the talent to win more than two or three games is another matter. The Cardinal return 17 starters and should have one of the best receiving corps in the Pac-10 with Evan Moore, Mark Bradford and Richard Sherman. But there are serious questions about the offensive line, which returns two starters and several reserves from a unit that couldn't block anybody.

What's more, tailbacks Anthony Kimble and Toby Gerhart are not elite playmakers; they need help (i.e., holes to run through). And how will senior quarterback T.C. Ostrander perform as the starter? He's tough and smart, but needs the protection that predecessor Trent Edwards didn't get.

Stanford returns eight starters on defense, which might not be such a good thing considering the unit yielded 31.4 points and 387.5 yards per game last season—and also considering it must replace its best player, linebacker Michael Okwo.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

www.secsports.com

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

EAST

1. FLORIDA — P. 108 STOCK: DOWN
2. GEORGIA — P. 110 STOCK: UP
3. TENNESSEE — P. 112 STOCK: STEADY
4. SOUTH CAROLINA — P. 113 STOCK: UP
5. KENTUCKY — P. 114 STOCK: UP
6. VANDERBILT — P. 114 STOCK: STEADY

WEST

1. LSU — P. 116 STOCK: UP
2. ARKANSAS — P. 118 STOCK: STEADY
3. AUBURN — P. 120 STOCK: DOWN
4. ALABAMA — P. 121 STOCK: UP
5. MISSISSIPPI — P. 122 STOCK: UP
6. MISSISSIPPI STATE — P. 122 STOCK: STEADY

Saban's return gives league fourth coach who's won it all—so who's next?

By SCOTT RABALAIS
The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate

Prospective coaches who aspire to work their trade in the SEC should make sure of one thing:

Have a national championship on your resume, or show you're capable of winning one.

If there was any added proof needed of the degree of difficulty in playing football in the SEC, consider this: one-third of its coaches wear national championship rings—South Carolina's Steve Spurrier (1996 at Florida), Tennessee's Phillip Fulmer (1998), Alabama's Nick Saban (2003 at LSU) and Florida's Urban Meyer (2006).

And several others could have—or might.

"What sets the SEC apart is the amount of resources, talent, passion and coaches' abilities that are across the board," Georgia Coach Mark Richt says. "We have four coaches who have won national championships and [Tommy] Tuberville probably should have one on the year he went undefeated."

Certainly good fortune plays a part. Of the four SEC coaches who have won it all, three (Spurrier, Saban and Meyer) had teams that bounced back from a regular-season defeat to claim the big prize. Tuberville, whose Auburn Tigers went 13-0 in 2004 only to finish second in the final polls, wasn't so lucky.

But his team was certainly capable. So were Richt's Georgia Bulldogs in 2002 when they went 13-1, the same record that would lead Saban and LSU to hoist the crystal football from atop the BCS trophy a year later.

"Sometimes you've got to get a little lucky to play for the BCS title in the national championship game," says Saban, who's back in the SEC after two seasons with the Miami Dolphins. "It speaks volumes for the quality of this league from top to bottom."

Quality doesn't stop at the top. LSU's Les Miles has the Tigers again poised at a national-championship run. Arkansas had a chance to get there last season—and this year boasts the 2006 Heisman Trophy runner-up, tailback Darren McFadden. Mississippi State and Kentucky have shown the ability to spring major upsets, as do just about everyone in the conference.

Maybe that's why the winner of the SEC Championship Game in December can feel so thankful for having survived—even on the rare occasion when it doesn't mean a shot at the national championship.

"I don't think any team that wins the SEC is not excited," says Richt, who has won two conference titles.

So often, it has proven to be an opportunity to winning it all.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. FLORIDA ▸ Gators get five prospects to switch earlier verbal commitments.
2. LOUISIANA STATE ▸ Home-grown DB Chad Jones headlines 26 newcomers.
3. TENNESSEE ▸ Nation's top-rated CB, Georgia's Eric Berry, follows father to Knoxville.
4. SOUTH CAROLINA ▸ Gamecocks have best-ever class and boast surprise No. 6 national ranking.
5. AUBURN ▸ Tigers' 30-recruit class ranks No. 7 nationally and features top Florida RB Enrique Davis.
6. GEORGIA ▸ Bulldogs continue strong in-state recruitment and add top Missouri QB Logan Gray.
7. ALABAMA ▸ New coaching staff got late start but signed 24 prospects.
8. MISSISSIPPI ▸ Ole Miss continues to recruit jucos hard, but added key in-state LB Chris Strong.
9. MISSISSIPPI STATE ▸ Bulldogs signed nation's largest class with 34 prospects, including 11 jucos.
10. ARKANSAS ▸ Razorbacks land solid class from Arkansas/Texas/Oklahoma.
11. KENTUCKY ▸ Wildcats sign 28 prospects from Oregon to South Carolina, led by QB Matt Lentz.
12. VANDERBILT ▸ Small class (14 signees) but some quality recruits like QB Larry Smith.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-SEC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Andre Woodson, Sr., Kentucky	Glenn Dorsey, Sr., LSU	DL
RB	BenJarvus Green-Ellis, Sr., Ole Miss	Quentin Groves, Sr., Auburn	DL
RB	Darren McFadden, Jr., Arkansas	Tyson Jackson, Jr., LSU	DL
OL	Antoine Caldwell, Jr., Alabama	Derrick Harvey, Jr., Florida	DL
OL	Will Arnold, Sr., LSU	Jasper Brinkley, Sr., South Carolina	LB
OL	Jonathan Luigs, Jr., Arkansas	Ali Highsmith, Sr., LSU	LB
OL	Michael Oher, Jr., Ole Miss	Wesley Woodyard, Sr., Kentucky	LB
OL	Phil Trautwein, Sr., Florida	Simeon Castille, Sr., Alabama	DB
WR	Earl Bennett, Jr., Vanderbilt	Jonathan Hefney, Sr., Tennessee	DB
WR	Keenan Burton, Sr., Kentucky	Derek Pegues, Jr., Mississippi State	DB
TE	Jacob Tamme, Sr., Kentucky	Aairon Savage, So., Auburn	DB
PK	Brandon Coutu, Sr., Georgia	Britton Colquitt, Jr., Tennessee	P

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. Urban Meyer's Gators won't have an easy encore. Everywhere he's been a head coach, Year Two has been brilliant for Meyer. There's never been a Year Three. This could be a real challenge, with a defense that lost nine starters and an offense that can't fall back on Chris Leak.

2. One of two things will happen in Arkansas: Darren McFadden will win the Heisman or Houston Nutt will lose his job. Take your pick.

3. South Carolina may be ready to join the SEC East elite. With Steve Spurrier's savvy coaching and steadily improving recruiting, the Gamecocks are a trendy dark horse to ride into Atlanta for the SEC Championship Game.

4. Matt Flynn is ready to do his Matt Mauck impression at LSU. This could be 2003 for the Tigers all over again—right down to USC waiting to steal some glory.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Keenan Burton, Kentucky

BEST HANDS
Earl Bennett, WR, Vanderbilt

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Erik Ainge, Tennessee

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Tim Tebow, Florida

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Darren McFadden, Arkansas

BEST INSTINCTS
BenJarvus Green-Ellis, RB, Ole Miss

BEST ATHLETE
Felix Jones, RB, Arkansas

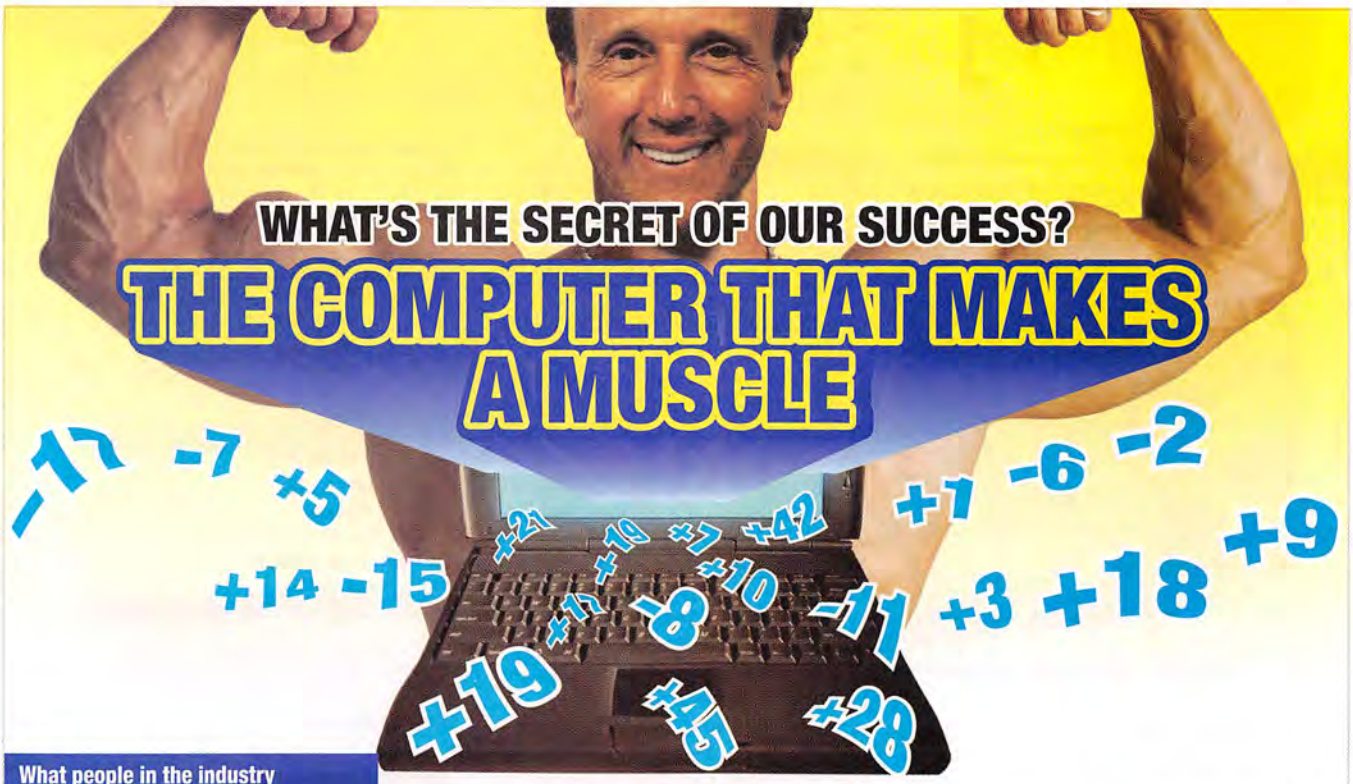
BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Andre Woodson, QB, Kentucky

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Darren McFadden, RB, Arkansas

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Caleb King, RB, Georgia

HARDEST HITTER
Glenn Dorsey, DT, LSU

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Brent Schaeffer, QB, Ole Miss



What people in the industry think of Jim Hurley.

Jimmy Vaccaro,
Legendary Dean of Las Vegas linesmakers, says:
"You swear at the guy because he beats you. Then you swear BY him because his numbers are so good."

College & Pro Football Newsweekly *writes:*
"Jim Hurley knows how to put ten kinds of information together to get one kind of result –winners."

Street & Smith *writes:*
"By focusing on better information and deeper analysis, Jim Hurley has made himself a tough act to follow."

Customer Doug Casey *writes:*
"An incredible record! - especially the run you had in December of 15-4- it made for a great Christmas! I'll be back next season for sure."

BONUSES:

Pre-season game of the year
Won '06 Eagles (+3) Steelers 16-7

September College Smackdown
Won '06 Navy (+1½) UConn 41-17

September NFL Golden Game
Won '06 Jets (+6) Bills 28-20

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newsletter gives you my exclusive power ratings, picks on all College/NFL games featuring best bets/upset specials. Plus midweek update! By mail, e-mail or online.

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We feed it the right nutrition and it makes the right muscle.

TS 111 squeezes the truth out of stat sheets, practice logs and scouting reports.

Crunches numbers till they cry mama.

Puts a vise-like grip on every matchup until it yields its ultimate secret: who can beat who and by how much.

We proved it last year with a Gold Key Club that went 80-45 for 64 %.

Look at some of the multi star winners our TS 111 pinned to the mat:

S11	Vikings	(+4)	Redskins	19-16	W
S16	Navy	(+1)	Stanford	37-9	W
O 1	Ravens	(+2)	Chargers	16-13	W
O 7	Arkansas	(+15)	'Bama	27-10	W
O12	Va Tech	(+42)	Bost Coll	3-22	W
O29	Cowboys	(+5)	Panthers	35-14	W
N11	Wake For	(+8½)	Fla St	30-0	W
N16	West Va	(-11)	Pittsbg	45-27	W
N25	Wake For	(+1½)	Maryland	38-24	W
D21	BYU	(-3)	Oregon	38-8	W
D24	Saints	(+3)	Giants	30-7	W
J21	Bears	(-2½)	Saints	39-14	W

Okay, you know where this is headed.
I want YOU to test the computer that makes a muscle and I've got an idea:

Last year TS 111 (with a little help from us humans) went 14-6 in August and 20-10 in September for a total of 34-16 (68%).

So here's what:

Order August and September THIS season for the Charter rate of only $99 and you must do at least as well (i.e., 68%) or I will give you all my Gold Key selections for October and November absolutely free! That's another 40+ best bets that could reap you more $thousands! And if I DO make guarantee, you agree to come in for the rest of the season for an additional $150 – you'd be crazy not to. Anyway it'll be chump change after the winnings you just knocked down!

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Jericho NY 11753

TOP 25 SELECTION

#1 FLORIDA GATORS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 13-1 » **SEC:** 7-1 *(beat Ohio State in the BCS National Championship Game, 41-14)*

Gainesville **Stadium:** Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548) **Tickets:** 877-428-6742

QB › Tim Tebow

For Gators, living up to standard of 2006 is not impossible, but not probable

At Florida, they really know how to celebrate.

The 2006 season marked the Gators' 100th anniversary as a football program. What did Florida do to throw a party? Just go out and win the national championship, routing previously indomitable Ohio State 41-14 in the inaugural BCS Championship Game.

It's what has become expected at Florida, a.k.a. National Championship U., where winning national titles have evolved into a game of "anything you can do, I can do better."

With the Florida men's basketball team coming off a second straight NCAA championship, the challenge has been passed back to the Gators football team once again.

What will the 101st season of Florida football bring? Another (ho-hum) back-to-back national championship run? Or is this the season the Gators finally suffer a hangover from their high-flying excesses?

Without question, Florida appears to be back as a national player. With another title in their trophy case and superb recruiting classes being stockpiled, the Gators' long-term future is positively dazzling.

But this year, it may be difficult for U of F to produce an encore to last year's 13-1 magnum opus. And no one is more skeptical than the head Gator himself.

"On offense, I feel pretty good," Urban Meyer says. "We have experience and playmakers. On defense, I'm concerned—alarmed, actually. We have 10 seniors and 10 juniors and the rest are freshmen and sophomores.

"We have five [freshmen)] defensive linemen showing up in June and all five are playing. They don't know that yet, but there aren't going to be any redshirts."

While it's his spread offense that has always garnered the splashiest headlines and biggest chunks of airtime, it was defense that was the reason Florida won the national championship last season. A defense that limited super-charged Ohio State and Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Troy Smith to a meager seven points (the other seven came on a kickoff return) and a BCS-record low of 82 yards in total offense.

Florida kept Ohio State so locked-down because the Gators' defensive front didn't allow Smith time to do virtually anything. It's that same defensive front that is such a concern this season.

Only one starter returns on the front four: junior defensive end Derrick Harvey. He had 35 tackles last season, among them 13 for loss, and 11 sacks. The rest of the line is unproven, especially inside, where sophomore Brandon Antwine, junior Javier Estopinan and senior Clint McMillan were in a tight battle for the two spots coming out of spring. The new end is Jermaine Cunningham (6-3, 230), a lightweight sophomore. Florida signed six defensive linemen in February—John Brown, Torrey Davis, Carlos Dunlap, Jay Howard, Duke Lemmens and Justin Trattou—but none of them were among the nine Gator newcomers who enrolled in January.

The linebacker corps is completely revamped, with the projected starters being a pair of sophomores—Dustin Doe and Brandon Spikes—and freshman A.J. Jones. Doe played every game last season, totaling 22 tackles.

The biggest loss on defense is free safety Reggie Nelson, a first-round NFL pick who made the rest of the secondary better. Senior Kyle Jackson replaces Nelson, joining the only returning starter, senior strong safety Tony Joiner. Joiner is Florida's top returning tackler (59) and had two interceptions. Sophomore Markihe Anderson and junior Markus Manson were the cornerbacks coming out of spring, but highly touted incoming freshman Joe Haden of Maryland is expected to challenge in the fall.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	5

» **Head Coach: Urban Meyer**
3rd Year (22-4) **Career Record:** 61-12

Official athletic Web site: www.gatorzone.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Western Kentucky**	
S. 8	**Troy**	
S. 15	**Tennessee**	21-20
S. 22	@MISSISSIPPI	
S. 29	**Auburn**	17-27
O. 6	» **@LSU**	23-10
O. 20	@KENTUCKY	26-7
O. 27	@GEORGIA*	21-14
N. 3	**Vanderbilt**	25-19
N. 10	@SOUTH CAROLINA	17-16
N. 17	**Florida Atlantic**	
N. 24	**Florida State**	21-14

GAME TO WATCH

This clash of the titans may only be their first meeting of the season—get ready for a sequel in Atlanta come December.

** at Jacksonville, FL*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	13	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL, NATIONAL TITLE
2005	9	BOWL
2004	7	BOWL
2003	8	BOWL
2002	8	BOWL

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **8**
Lettermen returning/lost: **38/25**

» OFFENSE

QB	15	Tim Tebow (6-3, 234, So.)
RB	33	Kestahn Moore (5-10, 208, Jr.)
LT	75	Phil Trautwein (6-6, 298, Sr.)
LG	63	Jim Tartt (6-3, 312, r-Jr.)
C	67	Drew Miller (6-5, 297, Sr.)
RG	74	Maurice Hurt (6-2, 317, r-Fr.)
RT	73	Carlton Medder (6-5, 318, r-Sr.)
TE	84	Tate Casey (6-6, 235, Sr.)
WR	5	Andre Caldwell (6-0, 198, r-Sr.)
WR	1	Percy Harvin (5-11, 181, So.)
WR	9	Louis Murphy (6-2, 199, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	91	Derrick Harvey (6-4, 245, r-Jr.)
NT	93	Javier Estopinan (6-1, 270, r-Jr.)
DT	98	Clint McMillan (6-1, 275, r-Sr.)
DE	49	Jermaine Cunningham (6-3, 230, So.)
SLB	16	A.J. Jones (6-1, 206, r-Fr.)
MLB	51	Brandon Spikes (6-3, 241, So.)
WLB	32	Dustin Doe (6-0, 219, So.)
CB	14	Markihe Anderson (5-9, 175, So.)
CB	2	Markus Manson (5-11, 207, r-Jr.)
FS	3	Kyle Jackson (6-1, 201, Sr.)
SS	19	Tony Joiner (5-11, 217, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Jonathan Phillips (5-10, 207, Jr.)
P	92	Bobby Kane (6-0, 183, r-So.)

JAY METZ

Florida fans who clamored last season to see more of quarterback Tim Tebow will get their wish. With Chris Leak gone, it's Tebow's offense now, a spread attack that the Gators believe is tailored to his talents.

Tebow completed 22 of 33 passes last season for 358 yards and five touchdowns, but his impact on the offense was enormous. Inserted in short-yardage and goal-line situations, he rushed for a team-high eight touchdowns. With 469 yards on 89 carries, Tebow is Florida's top returning rusher.

Still, it won't be Tebow's job alone. Meyer has expressed an interest in keeping a two-quarterback attack to keep opponents off-balance. Junior-college transfer Bryan Waggener, who broke his foot in spring practice, and freshman Cameron Newton (6-5, 242) are considered the prime candidates.

Versatile sophomore wideout Percy Harvin is the most valuable weapon the Gators have. A runner, a receiver and even a quarterback for a snap or two, Harvin is the prime example of the kind of multiple-threat player now in vogue in college football. Harvin had 34 catches for 427 yards and two touchdowns in 2006 and rushed 41 times for 428 yards and three TDs.

Junior Kestahn Moore is projected as Florida's starting tailback. He had 54 carries for 282 yards and a pair of scores last season.

Despite the loss of wideouts Dallas Baker and Jemalle Cornelius, Florida's receiver corps should still be deep and dangerous. Senior Andre Caldwell leads the way after catching 57 passes for 577 yards and six TDs as a junior. Also expected to see lots of time in Florida's wide-open attack are junior Louis Murphy and sophomore Jarred Fayson, who had bone chips removed from his left knee in April but is expected to recover in time for the season. Senior Tate Casey is back at tight end.

Meyer considers the offensive line the strength of this team. Senior Drew Miller moved from guard to center and has flourished in his new role. Three other starters return: senior left tackle Phil Trautwein, junior left guard Jim Tartt and senior right tackle Carlton Medder. Redshirt freshman Maurice Hurt is the leader at right guard.

At the completion of spring drills, the battle at placekicker was a dead heat between senior Joey Ijjas and junior Jonathan Phillips, the latter having handled kickoff duties for the Gators lasts season. Incoming freshman Chaz Henry will challenge redshirt sophomore Bobby Kane, who had a good spring, to replace Eric Wilbur for the punting job. Brandon James and Moore will again handle the kickoff- and punt-return duties.

After a couple of warmups against Western Kentucky and Troy, Florida's title defense kicks into high gear with the annual grudge match against Tennessee on Sept. 15 in Gainesville. Auburn goes to Florida Field on Sept. 29, giving the Gators a chance to avenge their only loss of 2006. Then begins a dangerous trek with four of the next five at LSU, at Kentucky, against Georgia in Jacksonville and at South Carolina.

Florida is favored in the East to get back to the SEC Championship Game. Whether it will have more titles to celebrate this season considering the 17 starters lost from last year's team is debatable, but it's hard to imagine it won't be a factor.

The Gators, to the rest of the SEC's chagrin, are back.

"We're going to be very eager and talented," Meyer says. "At least the standard has been set so we can show [the players] what we want done."

THE NEXT BIG THING

» CARLOS DUNLAP, DE

The Gators need help on their decimated "D" and signed six new linemen. Why not start with Dunlap, arguably the nation's best in coming freshman at his position?

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FLORIDA	OPP
SCORING	416	189
Points Per Game	29.7	13.5
FIRST DOWNS	285	216
Rushing	117	81
Passing	152	114
Penalty	16	21
RUSHING YARDAGE	2240	1015
Yards gained rushing	2567	1384
Yards lost rushing	327	369
Rushing Attempts	476	370
Average Per Rush	4.7	2.7
Average Per Game	160.0	72.5
TDs Rushing	24	8
PASSING YARDAGE	3305	2561
Att-Comp-Int	399-255-14	458-244-21
Average Per Pass	8.3	5.6
Average Per Catch	13.0	10.5
Average Per Game	236.1	182.9
TDs Passing	29	10
TOTAL OFFENSE	5545	3576
Total Plays	875	828
Average Per Play	6.3	4.3
Average Per Game	396.1	255.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	26-455	61-1181
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	49-499	19-71
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	21-150	14-117
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.5	19.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.2	3.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	7.1	8.4
FUMBLES-LOST	25-10	21-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	116-888	81-595
Average Per Game	63.4	42.5
PUNTS-YARDS	55-2244	77-2904
Average Per Punt	40.8	37.7
Net punt average	37.7	30.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:08	28:49
3RD-DOWN CONV.	74/167	61/186
3rd-Down Pct	44%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/18	6/18
4th-Down Pct	50%	33%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-258	23-166
MISC YARDS	23	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	57	23
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	6-15	10-19
PAT-ATTEMPTS	50-54 93%	19-20 95%
ATTENDANCE	632866	316000
Games/Avg Per Game	7/90409	4/79000
Neutral Site Games		3/77525

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Florida	90	150	83	93	416
Opponent	47	39	42	61	189

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Chris Leak	14	144.94	365-232-13	63.6	2942	23	210.1
Tim Tebow	14	201.73	33-22-1	66.7	358	5	25.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
DeShawn Wynn	14	143	699	4.9	6	49.9
Tim Tebow	14	89	469	5.3	8	33.5
Percy Harvin	13	41	428	10.4	3	32.9

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dallas Baker	14	60	920	15.3	10	65.7
Andre Caldwell	14	57	577	10.1	6	41.2
Jemalle Cornelius	14	34	523	15.4	3	37.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Earl Everett	13	50	35	85
Brandon Siler	13	50	27	77
Tony Joiner	14	31	28	59

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Derrick Harvey	14	11.0	89
Jarvis Moss	13	7.5	60
Marcus Thomas	5	4.0	31

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ryan Smith	8	44	5.5	0
Reggie Nelson	6	70	11.7	1
Reggie Lewis	4	35	8.8	0

RECRUITING REPORT

The old adage about the rich getting richer could certainly apply to the Florida football program.

Coming off a 2006 national championship season, the Gators have reloaded their talent pool with the nation's No. 1 recruiting class. No less than seven of *Street & Smith's* 50 All-America honorees opted for the Gainesville campus.

Two of those were among seven commitments from the nation's best high school team in Lakeland, Fla.: defensive lineman **John Brown** (6-1, 285) and running back/returner **Chris Rainey** (5-9, 175).

Other recruits from Lakeland High, which recorded its third straight 15-0 season and state title in 2006, are offensive line twins **James Pouncey** (6-4, 270) and **LaShawn Pouncey** (6-4, 275), wide receiver **Mark Wilson** (6-1, 180) and defensive backs **Ahmad Black** (5-10, 165) and **Steven Wilks** (6-2, 195).

Three more top-50 Florida products came into the Gator fold: offensive tackle **James Wilson** (6-4, 315), wide receiver **Deonte Thompson** (6-0, 185) and defensive back **Lorenzo Edwards** (6-2, 220). Tight end **Aaron Hernandez** (6-4, 240) from Connecticut and safety **Jerimy Finch** (6-3, 205) from Indiana are also among the 50 best.

Recruits receiving postseason All-America recognition include quarterback **John Brantley** (6-3, 195), defensive ends **Carlos Dunlap** (6-6, 245) and **Justin Trattou** (6-4, 240), defensive lineman **Torrey Davis** (6-5, 295), safety **Major Wright** (6-2, 205) and linebacker **Brandon Hicks** (6-2, 220).

Also watch for ultra-athletic **Joe Haden**, a back from Maryland.

—Doug Huff

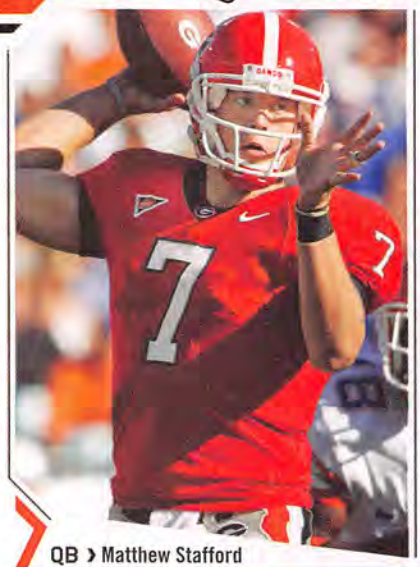
TOP 25 SELECTION

#2 GEORGIA BULDOGS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-4 » SEC: 4-4 *(beat Virginia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 31-24)*

Athens **Stadium:** Sanford Stadium (92,746) **Tickets:** 877-542-1231



QB › Matthew Stafford

With quarterback situation under control with Stafford, Bulldogs can concentrate on trying to win the big ones

Ah, springtime in Georgia. The mind conjures images of dew-covered azaleas, dogwoods, green jackets. A mint julep sipped slowly on the back porch.

It can be downright idyllic. At least it was this spring for Georgia Coach Mark Richt.

"The best thing that happened this spring was the lack of injuries," Richt says. "Our director of sports medicine said in his 12 years at Georgia, this was the best spring for that."

While the spring in Athens may have been most pleasant, as Ray Charles sang about Georgia, "No peace I find." Especially not in the fall, when the Bulldogs begin trying to improve on a 2006 campaign that was equal parts frustration and optimism.

A shaky 5-0 start that included a 14-13 comeback win over 2-10 Colorado and a 14-9 decision at Ole Miss fragmented into a season spinning into oblivion when Georgia dropped four of the next five.

A stunning 51-33 loss to Tennessee preceded three more disturbing defeats—a 24-22 home loss to Vanderbilt (Georgia's first loss to the Commodores since 1993), a 21-14 loss to Florida (the Bulldogs' 15th to the Gators in the last 17 years) and a 24-20 loss at Kentucky, the first time Georgia fell to the Wildcats since 1996.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	4

Then, just when everything seemed so dire, the Bulldogs pulled out of the nosedive with their most impressive victory of the season, a 37-15 upset at fifth-ranked Auburn that wrecked the Tigers' national-title aspirations. Two wins in Atlanta—at Georgia Tech and over Virginia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl—allowed Georgia to salvage a respectable 9-4 season and finish No. 23 in the final *Associated Press* poll.

For most programs, it would have been a nice season. But for Georgia, it had to be a downer, especially considering the Bulldogs had won 44 games over the previous four years and were coming off an SEC championship season in 2005 that began with many more question marks than did 2006.

One question that was answered quickly last year—and remains resolved—is at quarterback.

Matthew Stafford, then a freshman, emerged from a three-way battle with senior Joe Tereshinski and redshirt freshman Joe Cox to take the job and earn a place on the SEC All-Freshman Team. Stafford played in every game, completing 135 of 256 passes for 1,749 yards with seven touchdowns and 13 interceptions. Now, as a sophomore, he is firmly entrenched as the Bulldogs' offensive leader.

"There's no comparison from this year to last year," Richt says of Stafford. "Before, he was just trying to fit in with the team and with the offense. This year, he's our starter. He's the one everyone looks to for leadership and great plays. Matthew is starting to do that for us."

Who Stafford will be throwing to was a bit of an unsettled issue coming out of spring practice.

Sean Bailey, who tore an anterior cruciate ligament in practice for the 2006 Sugar Bowl and missed all of last season, returns for his senior year, but at split end instead of flanker. Like other Georgia receivers, he was plagued by dropped passes during the spring. That was a problem so troubling for junior Mohamed Massaquoi—Georgia's top returning receiver with 30 catches for 366 yards and two TDs—that he enters fall camp as the Bulldogs' No. 3 wideout. Senior Mikey Henderson, the All-SEC punt returner in '06, left spring as the top flanker. Henderson drew so much praise

» **Head Coach:** Mark Richt
7th Year (61-17) **Career Record:** 61-17

Official athletic Web site: www.georgiadogs.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Oklahoma State**	
S. 8	**South Carolina**	18-0
S. 15	**Western Carolina**	
S. 22	@ALABAMA	
S. 29	**Mississippi**	14-9
0.6	» @TENNESSEE	33-51
0. 13	@VANDERBILT	22-24
0. 27	**Florida***	14-21
N. 3	**Troy**	
N. 10	**Auburn**	37-15
N. 17	**Kentucky**	20-24
N. 24	@GEORGIA TECH	15-12

GAME TO WATCH

Georgia can't win the SEC East without beating Florida. But the Florida game probably won't matter if the Bulldogs can't atone for a 51-33 thumping last season in Athens by Tennessee—this time in Knoxville.

** at Jacksonville, FL*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9
2005	10
2004	10
2003	11
2002	13

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **12**
Lettermen returning/lost: **45/24**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Matthew Stafford (6-3, 237, So.)
FB	36	Brannan Southerland (6-0, 240, Jr.)
TB	6	Kregg Lumpkin (6-1, 222, Sr.)
LT	77	Trinton Sturdivant (6-5, 286, Fr.)
LG	64	Chris Davis (6-4, 292, r-Fr.)
C	75	Fernando Velasco (6-4, 328, Sr.)
RG	70	Scott Haverkamp (6-4, 310, Jr.)
RT	67	Chester Adams (6-4, 330, Sr.)
TE	86	Tripp Chandler (6-6, 259, Jr.)
SE	4	Sean Bailey (6-1,174, Sr.)
FL	27	Mikey Henderson (5-10, 150, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	41	Roderick Battle (6-4, 256, r-So.)
DT	95	Jeff Owens (6-3, 292, Jr.)
DT	56	Geno Atkins (6-1, 275, So.)
DE	38	Marcus Howard (6-2, 220, Sr.)
SLB	33	Dannell Ellerbe (6-1, 232, Jr.)
MLB	12	Brandon Miller (6-4, 257, Sr.)
WLB	51	Akeem Dent (6-2, 218, r-Fr.)
CB	2	Asher Allen (5-10, 192, So.)
CB	3	Bryan Evans (5-11, 179, r-So.)
FS	5	C.J. Byrd (6-2, 190, r-So.)
SS	30	Kelin Johnson (6-1, 194, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	96	Brandon Coutu (6-0), 200, Sr.)
P	26	Brian Mimbs (5-11, 205, Jr.)

THE NEXT BIG THING

» CALEB KING, RB

The Bulldogs have talent stacked at tailback, but there's always room for one more. King, a true freshman from nearby Norcross, is one of 2007's most touted incoming ball-carriers.

from Richt that he was dubbed "Mr. Spring" by the Georgia media corps. Tight end Tripp Chandler was the only player to make it through spring healthy at his position and is a virtually unchallenged incumbent.

The Bulldogs have depth returning at tailback and a talented freshman waiting eagerly for his chance. Senior Kregg Lumpkin, Georgia's leader with 798 yards and six TDs rushing last season, returns, as does senior Thomas Brown. Brown rushed for 256 yards and a touchdown before blowing out his ACL against Vandy. They are backed up by redshirt freshman Knowshon Moreno and true freshman Caleb King, one of the nation's top tailback prospects.

Questions still abound as to the sturdiness of the offensive line, but Georgia fans were encouraged by the arrival of new Offensive Line Coach Stacey Searels from LSU. Another new arrival is early enrollee Trinton Sturdivant, who showed up in January and by spring's end was the starting left tackle. Another freshman, redshirt Chris Davis, tops the depth chart at left guard. Senior Fernando Velasco is at center, with junior Scott Haverkamp and senior Chester Adams fortifying the right side.

Departures hit Georgia's defense hard, as the Bulldogs lost six of their front seven. Especially big losses were ends Quentin Moses and Charles Johnson, who are likely to be replaced by sophomore Roderick Battle and lightweight senior Marcus Howard. Sophomore Geno Atkins joins returning starter Jeff Owens, a junior who had 26 tackles last season.

Because of injuries, Georgia had only four linebackers to work with in the spring. Senior Brandon Miller started at strongside linebacker but moved to the middle. Junior Dannell Ellerbe mans Miller's old spot, while freshman Akeem Dent won a protracted battle with sophomore Darius Dewberry at weakside.

Two starters return from a secondary that helped Georgia rank fifth in the nation last season in pass defense (150.0 ypg). Senior Kelin Johnson, who had 60 tackles and two picks last year, is back at strong safety, while sophomore Bryan Evans returns at cornerback.

Georgia brings back the SEC's best placekicker in senior Brandon Coutu. Coutu made all 17 of his extra-point attempts last season and was 10-of-11 on field-goal tries, his only miss being a 53-yarder against Colorado.

Four-year punter Gordon Ely-Kelso has left the stage, leaving the job at least for now to junior Brian Mimbs. Mimbs didn't have a punt last season, but did leave his mark, converting an onside kick that spurred the Bulldogs' comeback in their bowl win over Virginia Tech. Mimbs, however, is expected to get a strong challenge in the fall from incoming freshman Drew Butler, son of former Georgia and Chicago Bears great Kevin Butler.

With Stafford cementing himself in a leadership role on offense, with the defense that returns, with the constant influx of talent that Richt has pipelined into the program, can the Bulldogs be expected to contend for the SEC East title? Of course, this year and virtually every year. But to unseat Florida, it would help if Georgia could beat the Gators a little more frequently. Do that, and avoid the midseason swoon that dogged Georgia last year, and the Bulldogs could be making the short trip to Atlanta in December.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Bulldogs landed an elite group of offensive linemen and continued to reap the harvest of in-state prospects to earn a No. 9 ranking from *Street & Smith's*.

Newcomers who will vie for offensive line spots include **Chris Little** (6-5, 345), **Justin Anderson** (6-5, 320), **Clint Boling** (6-5, 265), **Ben Harden** (6-4, 290), **Scott Haverkamp** (6-5, 300), **Tanner Strickland** (6-4, 315), **Trinton Sturdivant** (6-4, 285) and **Vince Vance** (6-7, 300).

Four of the linemen are transfers from junior colleges or prep schools, with Boling, Little, Strickland and Sturdivant coming off high school seasons. All but Sturdivant, a North Carolina product, played at Georgia high schools.

Aside from the linemen, this recruiting class includes **Caleb King** (5-11, 185), Georgia's top-rated running back, linebacker **Rennie Curran** (5-11, 205) and three highly rated defensive ends: **Neland Ball** (6-6, 220), **Justin Houston** (6-3, 230) and **Corvey Irvin** (6-4, 275).

King played his senior season at tiny Greater Atlanta Christian after earning All-State honors as a junior at large-school powerhouse Parkview in Lilburn.

Promising defensive lineman **Jarius Wynn** (6-5, 275) is a product of Georgia Military in Milledgeville, Ga., along with Vance and Irvin.

Other promising in-state recruits include defensive back **Vance Cuff** (5-11, 170), linebacker **John Knox** (6-2, 190) and wide receivers **Walter Hill** (6-5, 200) and **Israel Troupe** (6-0, 200).

The Bulldogs also signed a touted out-of-state quarterback in **Logan Gray** (6-3, 180) from Columbia, Mo.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	GEORGIA	OPP
SCORING	327	229
Points Per Game	25.2	17.6
FIRST DOWNS	217	198
Rushing	93	89
Passing	116	92
Penalty	8	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	1656	1407
Yards gained rushing	1911	1774
Yards lost rushing	255	367
Rushing Attempts	426	433
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.2
Average Per Game	127.4	108.2
TDs Rushing	21	15
PASSING YARDAGE	2397	1950
Att-Comp-Int	342-184-16	342-182-19
Average Per Pass	7.0	5.7
Average Per Catch	13.0	10.7
Average Per Game	184.4	150.0
TDs Passing	12	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	4053	3357
Total Plays	768	775
Average Per Play	5.3	4.3
Average Per Game	311.8	258.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	41-868	50-1093
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	34-505	20-186
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-297	16-69
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.2	21.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	14.9	9.3
INT RETURN AVERAGE	15.6	4.3
FUMBLES-LOST	22-15	22-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	78-611	70-529
Average Per Game	47.0	40.7
PUNTS-YARDS	53-2009	67-2747
Average Per Punt	37.9	41.0
Net punt average	33.3	32.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:31	30:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	62/159	45/164
3rd-Down Pct	39%	27%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/14	7/15
4th-Down Pct	64%	47%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-215	17-121
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	40	28
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	16-21	11-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	33-36 92%	24-25 96%
ATTENDANCE	649222	289268
Games/Avg Per Game	7/92746	4/72317
Neutral Site Games		2/79989

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Georgia	64	97	47	119	327
Opponent	27	76	55	71	229

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Matthew Stafford						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	108.99	256-135-13	52.7	1749	7	134.5

Joe Tereshinski						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
4	128.83	57-32-2	56.1	423	3	105.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kregg Lumpkin	13	162	798	4.9	6	61.4
Danny Ware	12	81	326	4.0	3	27.2
Thomas Brown	7	62	256	4.1	1	36.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Martrez Milner	12	30	425	14.2	3	35.4
M. Massaquoi	12	30	366	12.2	2	30.5
Kregg Lumpkin	13	17	116	6.8	1	8.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Tony Taylor	13	65	31	96
Jarvis Jackson	13	37	34	71
Kelin Johnson	13	48	12	60

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Charles Johnson	13	9.5	55
Quentin Moses	13	4.5	26
Ray Gant	11	3.0	19

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tony Taylor	7	97	13.9	1
Tra Battle	6	154	25.7	1
Paul Oliver	3	44	14.7	0

TOP 25 SELECTION

#3 TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-4 » **SEC:** 5-3 *(lost to Penn State in the Outback Bowl, 20-10)*

Knoxville **Stadium:** Neyland Stadium (102,038) **Tickets:** 800-332-VOLS

Vols have injury issues heading into preseason

When you're Tennessee, a season like 2006 isn't so much something to celebrate as it is a relief.

Coming as it did on the heels of a disappointing 5-6 record in 2005—the Volunteers' first losing campaign since 1988—last year's 9-4 record was, in the words of Borat, very nice.

Not thrilling, but nice.

There were certainly some high points on Rocky Top. The Vols opened by manhandling California, an alleged national-championship contender, 35-18 in Knoxville. They crushed reigning SEC champion Georgia in Athens, 51-33.

But after a 7-1 start, a No. 8 national ranking and gathering dreams of vaulting into national-title contention, the season hit the skids. Tennessee lost three of its last five, starting with a 28-24 setback to LSU and culminating with a 20-10 loss to Penn State in the Outback Bowl.

In a way, like last season, Tennessee is starting over, trying to build a memorable season out of the tools at hand.

The foundation starts with senior quarterback Erik Ainge—or, more specifically, his surgically repaired knee. Midway through spring practice, he had a torn piece of meniscus cartilage removed, with his recovery expected to be completed in time for August practice.

It better. Though Jonathan Crompton showed promise last season, Ainge is perhaps the most accomplished returning quarterback in the SEC. He set a Tennessee record with a 67-percent completion mark last year, throwing for 2,989 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Whether Ainge can be as effective as he was in 2006, given the departure of receivers Robert Meachem, Bret Smith and Jayson Swain, is perhaps the bigger question. Lucas Taylor (14 catches, 101 yards), Austin Rogers (5, 69) and Quentin Hancock (2, 29) have emerged as the best of an underwhelming lot.

Fulmer has threatened to use his tailbacks as receivers, if necessary. Fortunately, there are plenty at his disposal.

The Vols return last season's top three rushers, although it was the third, Arian Foster (91 carries, 322 yards, 5 touchdowns), who emerged from spring practice as the starter. LaMarcus Coker (108, 696, 5) is probably the best talent, but he has been dogged by discipline issues. In between is Montario Hardesty (107, 384, 4), who could shine brightest if he can stay healthier than he was last season. The offensive line, which returns three starters, will have to improve if the running game is to be more productive.

Concerns about the defensive line led to spring conversations about switching from a 4-3 front to a 3-4. Quality depth is an issue, especially at tackle, where sophomore Dan Williams and senior J.T. Mapu are the best prospects. A native of Hawaii, Mapu returned to the team last season after serving a two-year Mormon mission to record just eight tackles. He will have to be more productive. Juniors Xavier Mitchell and Antonio Reynolds will likely man the end positions.

Junior Jerod Mayo slides inside to take over for Marvin Mitchell at middle linebacker—or he will when he recovers from offseason knee surgery. His first full contact this August will be his first since the Outback Bowl.

Ryan Karl and Rico McCoy came out of the spring as the top outside linebackers.

The secondary is anchored around All-SEC free safety Jonathan Hefney. The conference's No. 2 returning interceptor had five picks last season. The rest of the starting spots were unsettled at press time, with senior Antonio Gaines and sophomore Marsalous Johnson emerging from spring on top, while Jarod Parrish was No. 1 at strong safety.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» JONATHAN CROMPTON, QB

Crompton, who showed glimpses of brilliance last season against LSU, could be the man driving the Big Orange bus if Erik Ainge's knee doesn't heal by September.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Eric Berry, DB, 5-11, 195** *Georgia product rated top cornerback.*
2. **Chris Donald, LB, 6-2, 220** *Vols land state's No. 1 prospect.*
3. **Ben Martin, DE, 6-5, 230** *Ohio prep All-American could play soon.*
4. **Kenny O'Neal, WR, 6-0, 195** *California junior-college star has superb skills.*
5. **Brent Vinson, ATH, 6-2, 180** *Versatile Virginian offers lots of speed.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	3

» **Head Coach: Phillip Fulmer**
16th Year (137-41) **Career Record:** 137-41

Official athletic Web site: www.utsports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	» @CALIFORNIA	35-18
S. 8	**Southern Miss**	
S. 15	@FLORIDA	20-21
S. 22	**Arkansas State**	
O. 6	**Georgia**	51-33
O. 13	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
O. 20	@ALABAMA	16-13
O. 27	**South Carolina**	31-24
N. 3	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	
N. 10	**Arkansas**	14-31
N. 17	**Vanderbilt**	39-10
N. 24	@KENTUCKY	17-12

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

Last season, the Vols imposed their physical will on a touted national-title contender in Knoxville, setting the tone for a bounceback season. This year's game in Berkeley will also show what Tennessee has—and how far it has to go.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2005	5	
2004	10	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2003	10	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2002	8	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **44/26**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Erik Ainge (6-6, 220, Sr.)
TB	27	Arian Foster (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LT	79	Chris Scott (6-5, 305, So.)
LG	78	Ramon Foster (6-6, 325, Jr.)
C	50	Josh McNeil (6-4, 280, So.)
RG	75	Anthony Parker (6-3, 305, Jr.)
RT	54	Eric Young (6-4, 305, Sr.)
TE	86	Brad Cottam (6-8, 270, Sr.)
TE	28	Chris Brown (6-3, 250, Sr.)
WR	12	Lucas Taylor (6-0, 185, Jr.)
WR	21	Austin Rogers (6-2, 185, So.)

» DEFENSE

LE	93	Xavier Mitchell (6-2, 255, Jr.)
LT	55	Dan Williams (6-3, 310, So.)
RT	99	J.T. Mapu (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RE	89	Antonio Reynolds (6-3, 270, Jr.)
SLB	39	Ryan Karl (6-0, 218, Sr.)
MLB	7	Jerod Mayo (6-2, 230, Jr.)
WLB	5	Rico McCoy (6-1, 215, So.)
LCB	37	Antonio Gaines (5-9, 180, Sr.)
RCB	31	Marsalous Johnson (5-9, 180, So.)
FS	33	Jonathan Hefney (5-9, 185, Sr.)
SS	19	Jarod Parrish (6-3, 200, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	47	Britton Colquitt (6-3, 205, Jr.)
K	47	Britton Colquitt (6-3, 205, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

«« #4

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 8-5 » SEC: 3-5 *(beat Houston in the Liberty Bowl, 44-36)*

Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250) **Tickets:** 800-472-3267 **Columbia**

» Head Coach: Steve Spurrier
3rd Year (15-10) **Career Record:** 157-50-2

Official athletic Web site: www.uscsports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	
S.8	**» @GEORGIA**	0-18
S. 15	**South Carolina State**	
S. 22	@LSU	
S. 29	**Mississippi State**	15-0
O. 4	**Kentucky**	24-17
O. 13	@NORTH CAROLINA	
O. 20	**Vanderbilt**	31-13
O. 27	@TENNESSEE	24-31
N. 3	@ARKANSAS	20-26
N. 10	**Florida**	16-17
N. 24	**Clemson**	31-28

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

If the Gamecocks are to truly contend in the East, they'll have to win games like this one in Athens.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8
2005	7
2004	6
2003	5
2002	5

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **54/12**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Blake Mitchell (6-3, 211, Sr.)
FB	39	Lanard Stafford (5-9, 247, Sr.)
TB	3	Cory Boyd (6-1, 214, Sr.)
LT	77	Jamon Meredith (6-5, 295, Jr
LG	70	Garrett Anderson (6-4, 300, So.)
C	71	William Brown (6-4, 291, Sr
RG	57	Lemuel Jeanpierre (6-3, 295, So.)
RT	78	Justin Sorensen (6-7, 323, Jr.)
TE	80	Andy Boyd (6-4, 267, Sr.)
WR	8	Larry Freeman (6-1, 209, Jr.)
WR	11	Kenny McKinley (6-0, 181, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	41	Jordin Lindsey (6-3, 254, Sr.)
NT	95	Nathan Pepper (6-1, 290, Jr
DT	79	Marque Hall (6-3, 302, Jr.)
DE	85	Eric Norwood (6-0, 264, So
SLB	45	Rodney Paulk (6-0, 217, So.)
MLB	52	Jasper Brinkley (6-2, 262, Sr.)
WLB	51	Casper Brinkley (6-2, 257, Sr.)
CB	1	Captain Munnerlyn (5-9, 180, So.)
CB	5	Carlos Thomas (5-11, 192, Jr.)
FS	26	Brandon Isaac (6-2, 201, Sr.)
SS	21	Emanuel Cook (5-10, 216, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	14	Ryan Succop (6-2, 213, Jr.)
P	14	Ryan Succop (6-2, 213, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

Is this Evil Genius' year to make indelible mark on USC?

There was a certain hum to South Carolina football this offseason, and it wasn't just the amps cranking up from the performance Hootie and the Blowfish gave before April's spring game.

ESPN showed up to televise the game as well. Perhaps it's because the sports giant heard the buzz everyone else is enveloped in these days in the Palmetto State:

This could be the year.

Since South Carolina and Arkansas joined the SEC in 1992 and helped usher in the conference championship game and divisional play, the SEC East berth in the title game has been an exclusive club with only three members: Florida, Georgia and Tennessee.

But this year, there could be a garnet-and-black-clad guest crashing the party.

Steve Spurrier's team has been gaining ground on the rest of the conference in recruiting, traditionally a difficult task for the Gamecocks. The defense is beginning to take on the look of a contender. And the offense, well, it does have the Evil Genius calling the plays.

OK, so maybe winning the East is quite a leap for a team that was only 3-5 in the SEC last year. But with Florida perhaps coming back to the pack after losing so much off of last season's defense and Georgia and Tennessee not looking as though they can separate from the rest of the division, maybe the notion isn't so far-fetched.

One pothole that South Carolina will have to fill right away on its road to Atlanta is at wide receiver. Sidney Rice left a considerable void there, taking his talents to the NFL two years early.

As a group, the Gamecocks' receivers looked pretty ordinary in the spring, with Spurrier left wanting for a deep burner. Junior Kenny McKinley, the team's second-leading receiver last year with 880 yards and five touchdowns on 51 catches, returns at one spot, while the other will likely be manned by junior-college transfer Larry Freeman. Freshman Chris Culliver, rated by some as the top prospect out of North Carolina this year, will also be expected to contribute.

Getting the ball to those receivers will be the job of senior quarterback Blake Mitchell, the main man in South Carolina's offense after splitting the job last year with Syvelle Newton. Mitchell completed two-thirds of his passes last season (135-for-202) for 1,789 yards with 10 TDs and six interceptions. Battling behind him to be the No. 2 quarterback are sophomore Tommy Beecher, freshman Chris Smelley and freshman Stephen Garcia, who has drawn the most praise from Spurrier.

The ground game looks solid with the return of senior Cory Boyd, who had 823 yards and eight TDs in 2006, and junior Mike Davis, who ran for 474 yards and six scores.

The offensive line, however, was a concern all spring, dominated by the defensive front even when it rushed only four. Sophomore Lemuel Jeanpierre moved over from defensive tackle to beat out James Thompson at right guard.

South Carolina signed seven defensive linemen in February and four of them were on campus in time for spring practice, speeding up the improvement of the D-line.

Twin brothers Jasper and Casper Brinkley return for their senior seasons in the heart of the Gamecocks' defense. Jasper plays middle linebacker, while Casper works the weakside, though he could be asked to make a move back to defensive end. Sophomore Rodney Paulk plays strongside 'backer.

Junior Ryan Succop is back to handle both kicking and punting duties. He was a sharp 16-of-20 on field-goal attempts last season.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» CHRIS CULLIVER, WR

The Gamecocks could rise if a replacement for Sidney Rice can be found. Freshman Culliver, the top prospect out of North Carolina, fits the description.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Chris Culliver, WR, 6-0, 190**
   North Carolina product rated high by all recruiting services.
2. **Stephen Garcia, QB, 6-2, 205**
   Floridian is only QB in 2007 class.
3. **Clifton Geathers, OL, 6-7, 290**
   Year at prep school should help.
4. **Quintin Richardson, OL, 6-4, 265**
   In-state product rates high marks.
5. **Cliff Matthews, DE, 6-4, 225**
   Touted defender could play early.

Lexington » 2006 Record: 8-5 » SEC: 4-4

(beat Clemson in the Music City Bowl, 28-20)

#5 » KENTUCKY WILDCATS

PRESEASON RANK

Kentucky has become the SEC's main distributor for boundless optimism.

First—and basketball in Kentucky is always first—there's the excitement generated by the hiring of new Coach Billy Gillispie for hoops. Then, a definite second but just as palpable, is the hum emanating from Commonwealth Stadium.

The Wildcats went 8-5 last season, winning five of their last six, including a 28-20 victory over Clemson in the Music City Bowl, UK's first postseason victory in 22 years. This season, with some of the SEC's best offensive stars returning, hopes are again high.

Coach Rich Brooks used spring practice to build experience for many of his younger players because the veterans are so established.

Quarterback Andre Woodson returns for his senior season as a prime All-SEC candidate. He completed 264 of 419 passes last season for 3,515 yards with 31 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. Also back are three of his favorite targets—receivers Keenan Burton, Dicky Lyons and tight end Jacob Tamme. Burton was second in the SEC in 2006 with 141.9 all-purpose yards per game.

While the offense should provide fireworks, the Kentucky defense will once again be trying to keep the opposition from lighting a fuse. The Wildcats were last in the SEC in total, rushing, passing and scoring defense last season. That prompted Defensive Coordinator Mike Archer to leave for a similar position at North Carolina State.

Brooks promoted Steve Brown from secondary coach to defensive coordinator, with the promise to streamline Archer's complex scheme. At least there is plenty of experience returning, with eight starters back led by senior weakside linebacker Wesley Woodyard.

Head Coach: Rich Brooks
5th Year (17-30)
Career Record: 108-139-4
Stadium: Commonwealth Stadium
Tickets: 800-928-2287
Capacity: 67,606
Official athletic Web site:
www.ukathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8
2005	3
2004	2
2003	4
2002	7

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Eastern Kentucky**	
S. 8	**Kent State**	
S. 15	**LOUISVILLE**	28-59
S. 22	@ARKANSAS	
S. 29	**Florida Atlantic**	
O. 4	@SO. CAROLINA	17-24
O. 13	**LSU**	0-49
O. 20	**Florida**	7-26
O. 27	**Mississippi State**	34-31
N. 10	@VANDERBILT	38-26
N. 17	@GEORGIA	24-20
N. 24	**Tennessee**	12-17

» GAME TO WATCH «

An early tussle with the state's dominant program will be an important measuring stick for the Wildcats.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **59/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	3	André Woodson (6-5, 230, Sr.)
FB	38	John Conner (5-11, 228, So)
TB	22	Rafael Little (5-10, 195, Sr.)
LT	79	Garry Williams (6-3, 290, Jr.)
LG	78	Christian Johnson (6-4, 325, Jr.)
C	59	Eric Scott (6-5, 291, Sr.)
RG	73	Jess Beets (6-2, 277, Jr.)
RT	64	Josh Winchell (6-3, 305, Jr.)
TE	18	Jacob Tamme (6-5, 240, Sr.)
WR	19	Keenan Burton (6-2, 195, Sr.)
WR	12	Dicky Lyons (5-11, 190, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	99	Jeremy Jarmon (6-3, 268, So.)
LT	91	Corey Peters (6-3, 290, So.)
RT	98	Myron Pryor (6-1, 300, Jr.)
RE	97	Nii Adjei Oninku (6-1, 248, Jr.)
SLB	51	Johnny Williams (6-3, 240, Jr.)
MLB	56	Braxton Kelley (6-0, 226, Jr.)
WLB	16	Wesley Woodyard (6-1, 212, Sr.)
CB	32	Trevard Lindley (6-0, 175, So.)
CB	17	E. J. Adams (6-0, 190, So.)
FS	2	Marcus McClinton (6-1, 210, Jr.)
SS	35	Roger Williams (6-0, 204, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	36	Lones Seiber (5-9, 185, So.)
P	44	Tim Masthay (6-2, 185, Jr.)

Nashville, Tenn. » 2006 Record: 4-8 » SEC: 1-7

#6 » VANDERBILT COMMODORES

PRESEASON RANK

You've heard of teams using "The time is now" as their catchphrase?

For the 2007 Vanderbilt Commodores, the slogan could well be, "If not now, when?"

Nineteen returning starters (plus a starting tailback from 2005), a favorable non-conference schedule and eight home games for the first time since 1900 give Vandy a legitimate shot at going bowling for the first time since 1982.

Now entering his sixth season, Coach Bobby Johnson and his staff have made big strides at elevating Vandy's talent level to where it is competitive in the SEC.

Junior wide receiver Earl Bennett and left tackle Chris Williams are two of the SEC's best. With Cassen Jackson-Garrison at tailback, plus the return of Jeff Jennings—he missed all of the 2006 season with a knee injury—the Commodores have one of the best ball-handling duos in the conference. And eight starters return on a defense led by linebacker Jonathan Goff, an All-SEC choice a year ago.

At tailback, Jackson-Garrison (614 yards, 5 touchdowns in 2006) and Jennings (448 yards, 7 TDs in 2005) emerged from camp as 1 and 1-A on the depth chart.

Whether Jennings or Jackson-Garrison takes the first snap Sept. 1 against Richmond is irrelevant. The point is that to survive in the SEC, teams need a stable of running backs. With them, as well as sophomore Jared Hawkins (298 yards, 3 TDs), Vanderbilt has that kind of depth.

Chris Nickson (160-of-292, 2,085 yards, 15 TDs, 13 interceptions) returns at quarterback, with his favorite target joining him. Bennett (82 catches, 1,146 yards, 6 TDs) led the SEC in receptions per game last season and was second in total receiving yards. Though just a junior, Bennett needs 48 catches to become the career leader in SEC receptions.

Head Coach: Bobby Johnson
6th Year (15-43)
Career Record: 15-43 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Vanderbilt Stadium
Tickets: 877-44-VANDY
Capacity: 39,790
Official athletic Web site:
www.vucommodores.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4
2005	5
2004	2
2003	2
2002	2

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Richmond**	
S. 8	**Alabama**	10-13
S. 15	**MISSISSIPPI**	10-17
S. 29	**Eastern Michigan**	
O. 6	@AUBURN	
O. 13	**Georgia**	24-22
O. 20	@SO. CAROLINA	13-31
O. 27	**Miami (OH)**	
N. 3	@FLORIDA	19-25
N. 10	**Kentucky**	26-38
N. 17	@TENNESSEE	10-39
N. 24	**Wake Forest**	

» GAME TO WATCH «

Commodores could have won in Oxford last year. This game could be the key to a 3-1 (or even a 4-0) September start.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **19**
Lettermen returning/lost: **53/12**

» OFFENSE

QB	3	Chris Nickson (6-2, 210, r-Jr.)
TB	22	C. Jackson-Garrison (6-1, 220, Sr.)
LT	74	Chris Wiliams (6-6, 315, r-Sr.)
LG	78	Josh Eames (6-5, 310, r-Sr.)
C	53	Hamilton Holliday (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RG	64	Merritt Kirchoffer (6-5, 315, r-Sr.)
RT	72	Brian Stamper (6-5, 295, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Brad Allen (6-3, 240, r-Jr.)
WR	10	Earl Bennett (6-1, 202, Jr.)
WR	88	George Smith (6-3, 195, r-Jr.)
WR	7	Sean Walker (6-0, 180, r-Jr.)

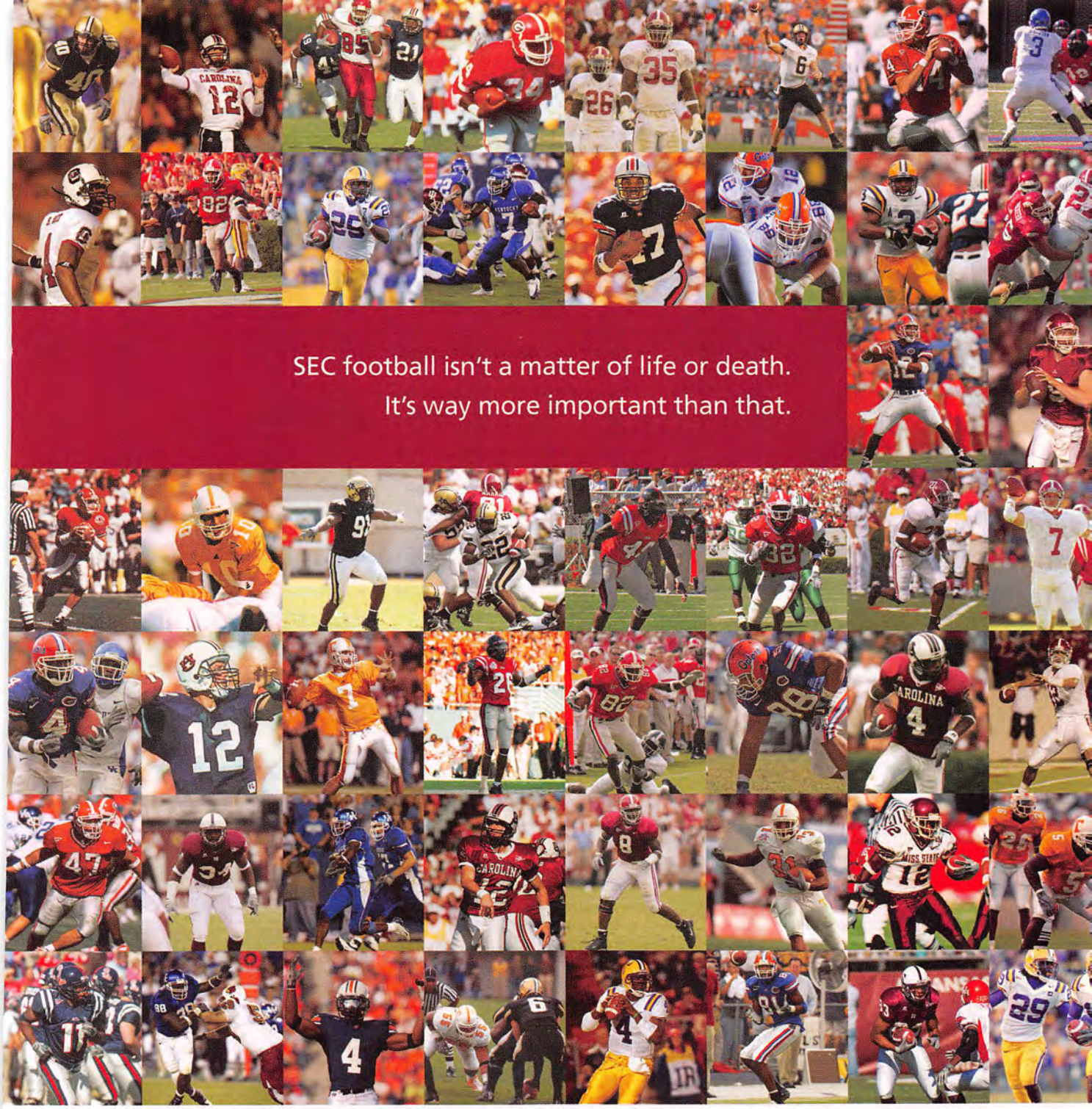
» DEFENSE

DE	48	Curtis Gatewood (6-3, 245, r-Sr.)
DT	56	Gabe Hall (6-1, 288, Sr.)
DT	54	Theo Horrocks (6-3, 295, Sr.)
DE	89	Broderick Stewart (6-5, 225, r-So.)
SLB	24	Marcus Buggs (5-11, 235, r-Sr.)
MLB	47	Jonathan Goff (6-4, 235, r-Sr.)
WLB	35	Brandon Bryant (6-1, 230, r-So.)
CB	29	Joel Caldwell (6-1, 185, r-So.)
CB	16	D.J. Moore (5-10, 175, So.)
FS	2	Ryan Hamilton (6-1, 205, r-So.)
SS	33	Reshard Langford (6-2, 215, r-Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	8	Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-11, 180, Jr.)
P	39	Brett Upson (5-10, 175, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American



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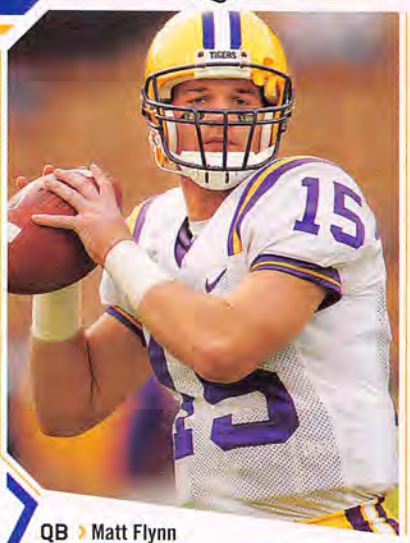
TOP 25 SELECTION

#1 LSU TIGERS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 11-2 » SEC: 6-2 *(beat Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl, 41-14)*

Baton Rouge Stadium: Tiger Stadium (92,400) Tickets: 800-960-8587



QB › Matt Flynn

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

» Head Coach: Les Miles
3rd Year (22-4) Career Record: 50-25

Official athletic Web site: www.lsusports.net

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	48-17
S. 8	**Virginia Tech**	
S. 15	**Middle Tennessee**	
S. 22	**South Carolina**	
S. 29	@TULANE	49-7
O. 6	**Florida**	10-23
O. 13	@KENTUCKY	49-0
O. 20	**Auburn**	3-7
N. 3	» @ALABAMA	28-14
N. 10	**Louisiana Tech**	
N. 17	@MISSISSIPPI	23-20 (OT)
N. 24	**Arkansas**	31-26

GAME TO WATCH

Nick Saban built a dynasty at LSU. Alabama wants him to do the same. Les Miles wants to get out from under his shadow. The only way this could be better is if it was in Baton Rouge.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11
2005	11
2004	9
2003	13
2002	8

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

First-round NFL Draft losses heavy, but there are still Miles of talent in Baton Rouge

Despite LSU fans' tendency to despair over the little things, despite what former coach/now Louisiana Public Enemy No. 1 Nick Saban once called "Catastrophe Syndrome," football has never been better in Tigertown.

Since 2000, LSU has:

- Won a national championship.
- Won two SEC titles and played for a third.
- Been to seven straight bowls for the first time ever.
- Posted four seasons of 10 to 13 wins.
- Finished in the top 10 four times and three times in the top five.

Not even in the glory days of Billy Cannon and the Chinese Bandits have the Tigers ever been on this kind of roll. And LSU figures to keep rolling on the river this season. Despite losing four first-round NFL draft picks—including the top choice, quarterback JaMarcus Russell, to the Oakland Raiders—LSU is still arguably the most talented team in the conference, or maybe the nation.

After back-to-back 11-win seasons that were very good but not great, nothing less than a championship will do in 2007.

One gets a sense from third-year Coach Les Miles that he shares the sentiment. But he also knows the work his players must put in to get there.

"I want them to segment their thinking," Miles says. "There's no way we can win a national championship today. There's no way we can win a conference championship today. We're a ways away from the field.

"I certainly understand expectations and the enjoyment of that. But there's a lot we have to accomplish before we can talk about where we're going to finish the season."

The old joke at LSU goes that the most popular Tiger quarterback is whoever is on the bench. For a lot of LSU fans, that man has often been Matt Flynn, Russell's backup the last two seasons.

Now the job is falling squarely to Flynn.

Miles' mantra even at the end of spring practice was that the quarterback derby continued to be a horse race between Flynn and sophomore Ryan Perrilloux. But Perrilloux was suspended indefinitely in May for using a fake ID, so the safe bet is Flynn, who in his biggest chance to shine was brilliant as MVP of the 2005 Peach Bowl.

Both quarterbacks will give opponents headaches with their running ability, something new coordinator Gary Crowton is sure to incorporate into his offense. Known for setting passing records when he was at Louisiana Tech and for producing 1,000-yard rushers at BYU, Crowton is likely to favor the same kind of multiple, balanced attack LSU fans came to favor from Jimbo Fisher, who left to be offensive coordinator at Florida State.

"The thing I enjoy about Gary is he's always able to take the skills he has and adjust the offense to make sure the right people touch the ball," Miles says. "We'll still be two-back and be recognizable, but you will also recognize some differences."

As with many positions on this team, the backfield stable is deep and talented. LSU fans lamented not being able to keep New Orleans prep star Joe McKnight away from Southern Cal, but there are still plenty of players here to carry the ball. Expect Keiland Williams to beat out fellow sophomore Charles Scott for the starting nod, but it will be a tailback-by-committee that also includes seniors Jacob Hester and Alley Broussard and improving redshirt freshman Richard Murphy. Hester will also play fullback and is the Tigers' best receiver out of the backfield.

The Tigers lost two first-round draft picks from their corps of wide receivers—Dwayne Bowe and Craig Davis—but they

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **46/21**

» OFFENSE		
QB	15	Matt Flynn (6-3, 228, Sr.)
FB	18	Jacob Hester (6-0, 228, Sr.)
RB	5	Keiland Williams (5-11, 223, So.)
LT	70	Ciron Black (6-5, 314, So.)
LG	79	Herman Johnson (6-7, 351, Jr.)
C	74	Brett Helms (6-2, 283, Jr.)
RG	65	Lyle Hitt (6-2, 284, So.)
RT	71	Carnell Stewart (6-4, 294, Sr.)
TE	89	Keith Zinger (6-4, 259, Sr.)
WR	1	Brandon LaFell (6-3, 194, So.)
WR	9	Early Doucet (6-0, 207, Sr.)
» DEFENSE		
LE	93	Tyson Jackson (6-5, 292, Jr.)
LT	72	Glenn Dorsey (6-2, 299, Sr.)
RT	91	Charles Alexander (6-3, 294, So.)
RE	84	Rahim Alem (6-3, 252, So.)
BUCK	35	Luke Sanders (6-4, 235, Jr.)
MLB	48	Darry Beckwith (6-1, 232, Jr.)
WLB	7	Ali Highsmith (6-1, 226, Sr.)
LCB	19	Jonathan Zenon (6-0, 176, Sr.)
RCB	21	Chevis Jackson (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS	27	Curtis Taylor (6-3, 204, Jr.)
SS	16	Craig Steltz (6-2, 204, Sr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	6	Colt David (5-9, 175, Jr.)
P	36	Patrick Fisher (6-5, 253, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

THE NEXT BIG THING

» RICHARD MURPHY, RB

Worked his way through a deep tailback corps with an impressive spring and now stands poised to challenge Keiland Williams and Charles Scott.

still have a likely future pro in senior Early Doucet. Sophomore Brandon LaFell will have to continue his maturation process and take over the other spot. Expect players like sophomore Jared Mitchell, a center fielder on the LSU baseball team, and pocket-rocket sophomore Trindon Holliday (5-5, 159 pounds) to play key roles. Holliday will be LSU's version of Percy Harvin at Florida, a multiple talent with speed and quicksilver elusiveness.

Three starters return to the offensive line: sophomore left tackle Ciron Black, junior left guard Herman Johnson and junior center Brett Helms. Sophomore Lyle Hitt moved over to right guard late last season and will now start there, while former defensive lineman Carnell Stewart becomes a starter at right tackle as a senior. Sophomore Richard Dickson is the returning starter at tight end, but could give way to senior Keith Zinger, who is recovering from a season-long illness last year.

The smile no one could erase from Defensive Coordinator Bo Pelini's face all offseason was the decision by defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey to return for his senior season. A force of nature inside, Dorsey alters plays and makes those around him better. Junior Tyson Jackson returns at left end. At right tackle, sophomore Charles Alexander will battle classmate Marlon Favorite to start. Right end is the only real question mark, with sophomore Rahim Alem emerging from spring as No. 1 there.

All three linebackers return, led by junior middle linebacker Darry Beckwith. Senior Ali Highsmith is back at weakside, while junior Luke Sanders returns at strongside.

Both safeties will have to be replaced. Senior Craig Steltz is practically a returning regular, having started three games in each of the last two seasons in place of a oft-injured Jessie Daniels. Junior Curtis Taylor takes over for yet another NFL first-rounder, LaRon Landry, at free. Both corners are back in seniors Chevis Jackson and Jonathan Zenon.

Junior Colt David returns as LSU's placekicker after having a quietly consistent season—he made eight of 13 field goals and 50 of 51 extra points. The punter position is up for grabs, though for now it's in the hands of seldom-used senior Patrick Fisher. Expect the kickoff-return duties to once again be handled by Doucet and Holliday, who returned just five balls in 2006 but averaged an explosive 32.4 yards per return. Jackson ended up handling more punts than anyone (though he averaged just 6.7 yards per return) and is the incumbent there.

Some critics say LSU's talent should have put it in the BCS Championship Game last year. But four road games against what were at the time top-10 teams (teams that all wound up in January postseason games) would have made that a daunting task for any program.

This year, the schedule sets up just about perfectly: not too hard, but not too soft so as to cost the Tigers points in the BCS formula when it really counts.

The Tigers have their games against tough opponents, but most of them are at home: Virginia Tech, Florida, Auburn and Arkansas. LSU's road slate includes a Thursday night opener at Mississippi State and matchups with Ole Miss, Kentucky and Tulane. The Nov. 3 game, on the road against Alabama and Saban, looms as a must-win for the Tigers.

It is that way because the Tigers want to beat their ex—and because they hope by early November LSU will still be a national-championship contender.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Tigers continued to restock the talent pool, and the 2007 recruiting class earns a No. 3 national ranking from *Street & Smith's*.

LSU again recruited well in its home state and landed most of its recruiting targets, with the notable exception of USC-bound Joe McKnight.

However, the Tigers signed 11 home-grown products in their 26-player class. The in-state headliners are prep All-America defensive back/athlete **Chad Jones** (6-2, 220), defensive back **Stefoin Francois** (6-0, 190) and wide receiver **DeAngelo Benton** (6-3, 195).

Other Louisiana prep products in the fold include defensive end **Kentravis Aubrey** (6-3, 285), defensive linemen **Will Blackwell** (6-4, 300) and **Drake Nevis** (6-1, 285), defensive back **Delvin Breaux** (6-0, 175), offensive lineman **Josh Dworaczyk** (6-5, 265) and athlete **John Williams** (5-11, 175).

Notable out-of-state commitments are **Terrance Tolliver** (6-4, 185), who was rated the top receiver prospect in talent-rich Texas, prep All-America defensive lineman **Joseph Barksdale** (6-6, 325) from Detroit and defensive end **Sidell Corley** (6-4, 250) of Alabama.

Other promising newcomers include athlete **Ron Brooks** (6-0, 170), offensive lineman **Jarvis Jones** (6-7, 250) and quarterback **Jarrett Lee** (6-2, 195) from Texas; wide receiver **Demetrius Byrd** (6-2, 195) and athlete **Stevan Ridley** (6-0, 210) of Mississippi; athlete **Phelon Jones** (6-1, 185) from Alabama; and offensive lineman **Ernest McCoy** (6-5, 330) of Florida.

LSU also added a re-signing from the 2006 class with in-state defensive back **Shomari Clemons** (6-2, 230).

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	LSU	OPP
SCORING	438	164
Points Per Game	33.7	12.6
FIRST DOWNS	283	180
Rushing	129	76
Passing	138	87
Penalty	16	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	2155	1262
Yards gained rushing	2398	1594
Yards lost rushing	243	332
Rushing Attempts	450	400
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.2
Average Per Game	165.8	97.1
TDs Rushing	25	7
PASSING YARDAGE	3272	1894
Att-Comp-Int	368-245-9	364-172-16
Average Per Pass	8.9	5.2
Average Per Catch	13.4	11.0
Average Per Game	251.7	145.7
TDs Passing	30	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	5427	3156
Total Plays	818	764
Average Per Play	6.6	4.1
Average Per Game	417.5	242.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	19-384	52-1032
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	31-264	14-159
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-243	9-130
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.2	19.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.5	11.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	15.2	14.4
FUMBLES-LOST	22-12	21-5
PENALTIES-YARDS	83-657	82-666
Average Per Game	50.5	51.2
PUNTS-YARDS	39-1584	74-3047
Average Per Punt	40.6	41.2
Net punt average	32.9	36.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:10	29:50
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/145	58/182
3rd-Down Pct	48%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	13/17	8/20
4th-Down Pct	76%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-239	19-146
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	59	20
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-14	8-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	57-58 98%	18-19 95%
ATTENDANCE	737696	340331
Games/Avg Per Game	8/92212	4/85083
Neutral Site Games		1/77781

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
LSU	136	104	93	102	3	438
Opponent	27	60	39	38	0	164

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

JaMarcus Russell

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	167.03	342-232-8	67.8	3129	28	203.6

Matt Flynn

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	138.86	20-12-1	60.0	133	2	50.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jacob Hester	13	94	440	4.7	6	33.8
Keiland Williams	9	76	436	5.7	5	48.4
Alley Broussard	10	74	281	3.8	4	28.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dwayne Bowe	13	65	990	15.2	12	76.2
Early Doucet	13	59	772	13.1	8	59.4
Craig Davis	12	56	836	14.9	4	69.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
LaRon Landry	13	46	28	74
Darry Beckwith	12	29	36	65
Glenn Dorsey	13	22	42	64

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Tyson Jackson	13	8.5	39
Chase Pittman	13	5.5	38
Daniel Francis	12	3.5	24

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jonathan Zenon	4	81	20.2	2
Craig Steltz	4	111	27.8	0
LaRon Landry	3	58	19.3	0

TOP 25 SELECTION

#2 ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 10-4 » **SEC:** 7-1 *(lost to Wisconsin in the Capital One Bowl, 17-14)*

Fayetteville **Stadium:** Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000) **Tickets:** 800-982-4647

TB » Darren McFadden

Despite '06 success and presence of McFadden, Arkansas must overcome caldron of controversy

Perhaps the best way to classify the Arkansas Razorbacks is as a danger to themselves and others. Otherwise, the Razorbacks virtually defy description.

Arkansas was ranked fifth in the country last Thanksgiving, rebounding from an opening-day blowout loss to Southern California with 10 straight wins to clinch the SEC West championship and dare to dream of playing in the BCS Championship Game. Then came the three-game skid that dropped the Hogs to 10-4. Sure, the losses were to LSU, Florida and Wisconsin—teams that finished a combined 36-4 and were all ranked in the top five—but it still left a bitter taste.

Running back Darren McFadden and backfield mate Felix Jones hog-wired the Razorback Nation by combining for 2,815 yards, finishing one-two on the SEC rushing list. McFadden was the runner-up to Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith of Ohio State, and goes into this season as the player to beat for sport's most coveted individual award. And yet, in the offseason, quarterback Mitch Mustain and wide receiver Damian Williams were disillusioned enough to transfer to Southern Cal, while Gus Malzahn packed up his playbook and bolted to Tulsa after just one season in Fayetteville as offensive coordinator.

Amid all the turmoil, the highs and the lows, the one constant is often embattled Coach Houston Nutt's boundless optimism.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

He looks at last season as the foundation for bigger and better things in 2007.

"The staff is in place and we've done a good job," Nutt says. "We're the defending Western Division champs and we want to continue to get better."

Only 11 starters return, but enough key players to make Nutt's mission statement sound like more than coach's chatter.

"We have a good group of seniors," Nutt says, "guys like [wide receiver] Marcus Monk who could have left early. Good leaders and good kids who do the right things. That's what you feel good about."

With Mustain gone, Casey Dick enters his junior season as the undisputed starter despite less-than-overwhelming stats last year: 65-of-132 passing, 991 yards, nine touchdowns and six interceptions. Dick had a hot-and-cold spring under new Offensive Coordinator David Lee, who was brought in to try to upgrade the passing game into something resembling the running game.

Lee has said his quarterback doesn't have to be a Heisman Trophy winner, just someone to run the offense efficiently and keep the mistakes to a manageable number. It's sound reasoning, since Arkansas most likely has the nation's top Heisman candidate.

McFadden came at opponents from a variety of unstoppable angles last season, piling up 1,647 yards rushing and 14 TDs. His backfield mate, Jones, was only the SEC's second-leading rusher last season despite getting 1,168 yards. Senior fullback Peyton Hillis was sorely missed when he went down for the last four games of last season with an injury. A potent weapon who had opposing defenses guessing whether he'd be staying in to block or go out for a pass, Hillis tied for second on the team with 19 receptions in 2006.

Six-foot-6 senior Monk is one of the SEC's most inviting targets and the Razorbacks' go-to pair of hands in the passing game. Monk had 50 catches last season for 962 yards and 11 TDs. Another senior, Robert Johnson started the Capital One Bowl against Wisconsin and is projected as the starter at flanker despite being banged up during spring practice. Sophomore tight end Andrew Davie (6-6, 265 pounds) had just two catches in 2006.

All-SEC center Jonathan Luigs returns to anchor the center of an offensive line that is otherwise largely a rebuilding

» **Head Coach:** Houston Nutt
10th Year (67-44) **Career Record:** 72-50 (Division I-A)

Official athletic Web site: www.hogwired.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	Troy	
S. 15	» @ALABAMA	24-23 (OT)
S. 22	Kentucky	
S. 29	North Texas	
O. 6	Chattanooga*	
O. 13	Auburn	27-10
O. 20	@MISSISSIPPI	38-3
O. 27	Florida International	
N. 3	South Carolina	26-20
N. 10	@TENNESSEE	31-14
N. 17	Mississippi State*	28-14
N. 24	@LSU	26-31

» GAME TO WATCH «

An interesting early test for both teams—Arkansas' new offense under David Lee and Alabama's new defense under Nick Saban.

** at Little Rock, AR*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2005	4	
2004	5	
2003	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL
2002	9	CONFERENCE TITLE, BOWL

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **11**
Lettermen returning/lost: **48/21**

» OFFENSE		
QB	11	Casey Dick (6-2, 216, Jr.)
TB	5	Darren McFadden (6-2, 215, Jr.)
FB	22	Peyton Hillis (6-2, 243, Sr.)
LT	78	Jose Valdez (6-5, 307, Jr.)
LG	66	Mitch Petrus (6-4, 295, Jr.)
C	63	Jonathan Luigs (6-4, 307, Jr.)
RG	61	Robert Felton (6-4, 328, Sr.)
RT	75	Nate Garner (6-7, 319, Sr.)
TE	82	Andrew Davie (6-5, 265, So.)
SE	85	Marcus Monk (6-6, 220, Sr.)
FL	18	Robert Johnson (6-2, 209, Sr.)
» DEFENSE		
LE	96	Malcolm Sheppard (6-3, 272, So.)
LT	90	Ernest Mitchell (6-2, 296, Jr.)
RT	55	Marcus Harrison (6-3, 307, Sr.)
RE	97	Antwain Robinson (6-2, 255, Jr.)
SLB	44	Freddie Fairchild (6-3, 220, So.)
MLB	30	Weston Dacus (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	41	Ryan Powers (6-1, 210, r-Fr.)
LCB	27	Jerell Norton (6-0, 184, So.)
RCB	9	Matterral Richardson (6-0, 197, Sr.)
FS	8	Michael Grant (5-11, 182, Sr.)
SS	31	Matt Hewitt (6-3, 215, Sr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	52	Brian Vavra (5-11, 175, Jr.)
P	50	Jeremy Davis (5-9, 195, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

JOHN WILLIAMSON

THE NEXT BIG THING

» MALCOLM SHEPPARD, DE

Jamaal Anderson, the eighth overall pick in the NFL Draft by Atlanta, left some massive cleats to fill. The Razorbacks hope sophomore Sheppard proves a quick study.

project. Senior Robert Felton, a versatile player who can play all five line positions, returns at right guard.

Junior left tackle Jose Valdez, Tony Ugoh's understudy the last two seasons, played the second half of the Capital One Bowl after Ugoh got hurt and now takes over the position full-time. Junior Mitch Petrus, a former fullback, has beefed up and takes over at left guard. Senior Nate Garner doesn't have much experience and is the line's biggest question mark.

The defense was banged up this spring, with the biggest concern being senior defensive tackle Marcus Harrison. Harrison tore knee ligaments in April, requiring surgery, and the predicted rehab time will take him right up to the season opener. Senior Fred Bledsoe is Harrison's understudy.

Junior Ernest Mitchell started last season when Harrison was injured. Proving himself a quality run stopper, Mitchell is projected to start at the other tackle spot. Sophomore Malcolm Sheppard takes over for Jamaal Anderson at left end, while junior Antwain Robinson, who ran into some off-the-field discipline problems during the offseason, returns at right end.

Arkansas' linebacker corps was hit hard by the loss of outside 'backers Sam Olajabutu and Desmond Sims. Redshirt freshman Ryan Powers replaces Olajabutu, while sophomore Freddie Fairchild, who missed most of last season with a knee injury, is on the strongside. Senior Weston Dacus, the team's top returning tackler with 95 stops, is at middle linebacker.

Senior free safety Michael Grant is the only returning starter in the secondary, though he practiced sparingly in the spring after returning from knee surgery. Senior Matt Hewitt, a former linebacker, moves to strong safety. Senior Matterral Richardson and sophomore Jerell Norton, a talented but inexperienced former quarterback, take over at the corners.

Placekicker Jeremy Davis returns, but after going just six-for-13 in the field-goal department—making none from outside 44 yards—the door is open for incoming homegrown freshman Alex Tejada of Springdale. Davis is expected to move over and do a capable job of replacing graduated punter Jacob Skinner (though whether he can do a decent impression of Skinner's genuflecting pre-punt aiming technique remains to be seen).

Returning kicks was an Arkansas strength last season. With kickoffs coming from the 30-yard line now, there's little reason to believe the Razorbacks won't be dangerous here again. McFadden (26.2 yards per kickoff return) and Jones (24.1) will have opposing special-teams coordinators praying for a touchback. Hillis (11.5 yards per punt return) will likely be deep on punt returns, though Norton could get a look as well.

After starting with a 50-14 loss to USC's Men of Troy last year, Arkansas begins this season with the men of Troy (University) from Alabama. Next comes an early open date before the Razorbacks play 11 straight, starting with a Sept. 15 trip to Alabama and ending with a traditional day-after-Thanksgiving game with LSU in Baton Rouge.

Following Troy, the rest of the non-conference schedule is even less daunting, with games against North Texas, Chattanooga and Florida International. The key for the Razorbacks will be taking advantage of a home slate that includes Kentucky, Auburn and South Carolina. If the Razorbacks can win those, they could stay in contention for a return trip to the SEC Championship Game going into that season finale at LSU.

Clearly, the Razorbacks could again be a championship team. Or they could continue to unravel into something much more disappointing. Either way, the story ought to be compelling.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Razorbacks had a solid recruiting class but lost national names from 2006, including two in-state standouts who have transferred to USC in quarterback Mitch Mustain and wide receiver Damian Williams. Those two were high school teammates on a nationally ranked Springdale (Ark.) High team. Mustain was also named a National Player of the Year.

But the Arkansas coaches complemented in-state prospects with newcomers hailing from recruiting hotbeds Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Alabama and Georgia.

From the Arkansas high school ranks come two promising tight ends in **D. J. Williams** (6-2, 245) and **Grant Freeman** (6-6, 235), as well as massive offensive lineman **Grant Cook** (6-6, 315), center **Seth Oxner** (6-4, 280), wide receiver **Crosby Tuck** (6-1, 185) and All-State placekicker **Alex Tejada** (6-1, 195).

Out of Florida are lineman **Kareem Crowell** (6-4, 315), who spent a year at a Virginia prep school, and running back **Juwan Franklin** (6-1, 210). Both could figure prominently in future Razorback plans.

Touted Texas linebacker **Jermaine Love** (5-11, 200) is a productive defender from Garland who was credited with more than 150 tackles last season.

Two quarterbacks were also recruited out of Texas: **Nathan Dick** (6-4, 200) from Allen and **Joseph Chaisson** (6-2, 175) of Beaumont. The Razorbacks went to Tulsa, Okla., to land running back **Michael Harris**.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	ARKANSAS	OPP
SCORING	404	256
Points Per Game	28.9	18.3
FIRST DOWNS	250	243
Rushing	142	98
Passing	89	115
Penalty	19	30
RUSHING YARDAGE	3199	1604
Yards gained rushing	3433	2160
Yards lost rushing	234	556
Rushing Attempts	539	461
Average Per Rush	5.9	3.5
Average Per Game	228.5	114.6
TDs Rushing	26	10
PASSING YARDAGE	2093	2591
Att-Comp-Int	302-154-18	433-215-16
Average Per Pass	6.9	6.0
Average Per Catch	13.6	12.1
Average Per Game	149.5	185.1
TDs Passing	23	20
TOTAL OFFENSE	5292	4195
Total Plays	841	894
Average Per Play	6.3	4.7
Average Per Game	378.0	299.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	37-921	48-1026
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	33-239	19-156
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-330	18-209
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	24.9	21.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.2	8.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	20.6	11.6
FUMBLES-LOST	15-7	24-5
PENALTIES-YARDS	83-754	81-618
Average Per Game	53.9	44.1
PUNTS-YARDS	63-2327	82-3143
Average Per Punt	36.9	38.3
Net punt average	32.6	34.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:41	31:19
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/167	61/188
3rd-Down Pct	42%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/13	5/18
4th-Down Pct	31%	28%
SACKS BY-YARDS	37-262	9-70
MISC YARDS	0	-20
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	55	32
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	6-14	12-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	50-53 94%	28-30 93%
ATTENDANCE	499201	236424
Games/Avg Per Game	7/71314	4/59106
Neutral Site Games		3/63189

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Arkansas	96	143	93	65	7	404
Opponent	47	87	38	78	6	256

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Casey Dick						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	125.72	132-65-6	49.2	991	9	99.1

Mitch Mustain						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	120.53	132-69-9	52.3	894	10	74.5

Robert Johnson						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	63.85	27-12-2	44.4	110	0	10.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Darren McFadden	14	284	1647	5.8	14	117.6
Felix Jones	14	154	1168	7.6	6	83.4
Michael Smith	11	35	247	7.1	3	22.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Marcus Monk	14	50	962	19.2	11	68.7
Damian Williams	13	19	235	12.4	2	18.1
Peyton Hillis	10	19	159	8.4	0	15.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Sam Olajubutu	13	70	45	115
Randy Kelly	14	54	46	100
Weston Dacus	14	59	36	95

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Jamaal Anderson	14	13.5	95
Antwain Robinson	13	8.5	63
Weston Dacus	14	3.5	24

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Chris Houston	3	129	43.0	1
Michael Grant	3	0	0.0	0
Keith Jackson	2	69	34.5	1

#3 AUBURN TIGERS

PRESEASON RANK

TOP 25 SELECTION

2006 Record: 11-2 » **SEC:** 6-2 *(beat Nebraska in the Cotton Bowl, 17-14)*

Auburn, Ala. **Stadium:** Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451) **Tickets:** 800-AUB-1957

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach:** Tommy Tuberville
9th Year (71-29) **Career Record:** 96-49

Official athletic Web site: www.auburntigers.com

Tigers will continue to quietly be the best team in Alabama

While the excitement at Alabama over Nick Saban's hiring has to have Auburn fans rolling their eyes, the underlying truth is something even the Crimson Tide faithful can't deny: 'Bama has a lot of catching up to do.

It is Auburn that now sets the standard in the state. Since 2000, the Tigers have been to a pair of SEC Championship Games, turned in that hurts-so-good 13-0 season in 2004 and won 66 games overall, including 33 over the last three years.

Maintaining that kind of success will be a challenge for Auburn in 2007. Not that the talent and coaching isn't still strong, but it's the schedule that may keep the Tigers short of their now-expected annual goal of reaching the SEC Championship Game.

On offense, it will be up to Brandon Cox to lead Auburn there. The 6-2, 209-pound junior had a solid if unspectacular sophomore campaign, completing 163 of 271 passes for 2,198 yards with 14 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

With Kenny Irons gone, the bulk of the tailback duties fall to junior Brad Lester, who had 510 yards and a team-high nine TDs on 104 carries last season. Lester is backed up by sophomore Ben Tate, who rushed for 392 yards and three scores in 2006, with redshirt freshman Mario Fannin and junior Tristan Davis providing depth. Senior Carl Stewart returns at fullback.

Auburn can comfortably go three wide at receiver (and then some), but someone has to be the go-to guy. That's junior Rodgeriquis Smith, second on the team last year with 26 catches for 452 yards and a team-best four TDs. Sophomore Robert Dunn came on late in spring despite being hampered by a hamstring, and junior Prechae Rodriguez will also catch plenty of balls. Senior Cole Bennett returns at tight end.

The offensive line is almost a complete overhaul, with the only returning starter being massive senior left tackle King Dunlap (6-9, 321 pounds). Junior Tyronne Green slides in next-door at left guard, while junior Jason Bosley will be counted on to anchor the line at center.

Leon Hart has been shuffled from here to there on the line. Now in his final season, he has one last chance to make his mark at right guard. Andrew McCain, a junior, ended the spring as the No. 1 right tackle, but will have to fend off August challenges from junior Antwoin Daniels and possibly even freshman Lee Ziemba (6-7, 295).

The defensive line could be the Tigers' biggest strength this season, but even here Auburn coaches did a little spring shuffling. Three starters return in seniors Quentin Groves and Josh Thompson and sophomore Sen'Derrick Marks (6-2, 287). But concerns over who would replace Marquies Gunn at end opposite Groves led Defensive Coordinator Will Muschamp to slide Marks to the outside, opening up a spot at defensive tackle for junior Pat Sims. Marks' move was inhibited by an ankle injury that kept him down most of the spring.

Auburn has to hope things settle out at linebacker come August. Projected strongside starter Tray Blackmon, a sophomore, was suspended for the spring. Junior Merrill Johnson, now at middle linebacker, also sat out much of the spring with a torn calf muscle. New starter Steve Gandy, another junior, is at weakside.

More injuries in the secondary forced Auburn to go young at cornerback this spring. The expectation is for senior Jonathan Wilhite to be back from knee and shoulder injuries by fall. Senior Patrick Lee takes over for David Irons at the other corner. Sophomore free safety Aairon Savage, Auburn's top returning tackler with 53 stops, has emerged as one of the SEC's best young defensive backs. Senior Eric Brock returns at strong safety, though Auburn coaches were publicly saying this spring they are looking for more leadership from him.

Auburn must revamp its kicking game.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **AAIRON SAVAGE, FS**

Savage led Auburn with 53 tackles in 2006, so he isn't a new name. But the sophomore could replace ex-LSU free safety LaRon Landry as the SEC's best.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Lee Ziemba, OL, 6-7, 295**
   Prep All-American from Arkansas.
2. **Enrique Davis, RB, 5-11, 215**
   Florida product could be back of the future.
3. **Chris Slaughter, WR, 6-3, 180**
   Year at prep school could help.
4. **Kodi Burns, QB, 6-2, 195**
   Another Arkansas standout for Tigers.
5. **Michael McNeil, DB, 6-2, 200**
   In-state product in future plans.

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	Kansas State	
S. 8	South Florida	
S. 15	Mississippi State	34-0
S. 22	New Mexico State	
S. 29	@FLORIDA	27-17
O. 6	Vanderbilt	
O. 13	» @ARKANSAS	10-27
O. 20	@LSU	7-3
O. 27	Mississippi	23-17
N. 3	Tennessee Tech	
N. 10	@GEORGIA	15-37
N. 24	Alabama	22-15

GAME TO WATCH

After Florida and before LSU, this could be a game of survival in the SEC West race.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11
2005	9
2004	13
2003	8
2002	9

CONFERENCE TITLE *BOWL* *NATIONAL TITLE*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **12**
Lettermen returning/lost: **52/22**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Brandon Cox (6-2, 209, Jr.)
FB	32	Carl Stewart (6-2, 224, Sr.)
TB	1	Brad Lester (5-11, 191, Jr.)
LT	77	King Dunlap (6-9, 321, Sr.)
LG	71	Tyronne Green (6-2, 307, Jr.)
C	68	Jason Bosley (6-2, 280, Jr.)
RG	72	Leon Hart (6-4, 297, Sr.)
RT	75	Andrew McCain (6-6, 252, Jr.)
TE	87	Cole Bennett (6-5, 261, Sr.)
WR	80	Rodgeriqus Smith (6-2, 184, Jr.)
WR	15	Prechae Rodriguez (6-4, 204, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	54	Quentin Groves (6-4, 254, Sr.)
NG	97	Josh Thompson (6-0, 295, Sr.)
DT	95	Pat Sims (6-4, 312, Jr.)
DE	94	Sen'Derrick Marks (6-2, 287, So.)
LB	42	Patrick Trahan (6-2, 220, So.)
LB	55	Merrill Johnson (6-0, 213, Jr.)
LB	26	Steve Gandy (6-2, 201, Jr.)
LCB	20	Patrick Lee (6-0, 195, Sr.)
RCB	24	Jonathan Wilhite (5-11, 182, Sr.)
FS	2	Aairon Savage (5-11, 191, So.)
SS	33	Eric Brock (6-1, 204, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	18	Zach Kutch (5-9, 173, So.)
P	4	Ryan Shoemaker (6-0, 187, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

2006 Record: 6-7 » **SEC:** 2-6 *(lost to Oklahoma State in the Independence Bowl, 34-31)*

Stadium: Bryant-Denny Stadium (92,138) **Tickets:** 205-348-BAMA **Tuscaloosa**

#4 PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Nick Saban**, 1st Year
Career Record: 91-42-1

Official athletic Web site: www.rolltide.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Western Carolina**	
S. 8	@VANDERBILT	13-10
S. 15	**Arkansas**	23-24 (OT)
S. 22	**Georgia**	
S. 29	@FLORIDA STATE*	
O. 6	**Houston**	
O. 13	@MISSISSIPPI	26-23 (OT)
O. 20	**Tennessee**	13-16
N. 3	» **LSU**	14-28
N. 10	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	16-24
N. 17	**Louisiana-Monroe**	41-7
N. 24	@AUBURN	15-22

» GAME TO WATCH «

What Steve Spurrier's South Carolina team was to Florida in 2005, this is what Saban's Crimson Tide is to playing the Tigers. LSU has won six of the last seven against 'Bama, an unprecedented string started under you know who.

** at Jacksonville, FL*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6
2005	10
2004	6
2003	4
2002	10

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **48/16**

» OFFENSE

QB	14	John Parker Wilson (6-2, 209, Jr.)
FB	40	Baron Huber (6-4, 252, So.)
RB	29	Terry Grant (5-9, 184, Fr.)
LT	71	Andre Smith (6-4, 348, So.)
LG	50	Justin Britt (6-4, 290, Sr.)
C	59	Antoine Caldwell (6-4, 288, Jr.)
RG	76	Marlon Davis (6-2, 311, Jr.)
RT	72	Chris Capps (6-7, 283, Sr.)
TE	83	Travis McCall (6-2, 264, Jr.)
WR	81	Keith Brown (6-3, 204, Sr.)
WR	22	DJ Hall (6-3, 186, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	92	Wallace Gilberry (6-4, 264, Sr.)
NT	66	Brian Motley (6-1, 284, Fr.)
DE	93	Bobby Greenwood (6-5, 260, Jr.)
SLB	47	Ezekial Knight (6-4, 238, Jr.)
MLB	94	Keith Saunders (6-3, 248, Sr.)
MLB	21	Prince Hall (5-11, 255, So.)
WLB	57	Darren Mustin (6-2, 237, Sr.)
LCB	2	Simeon Castille (6-1,189, Sr.)
RCB	16	Lionell Mitchell (6-2, 184, Jr.)
FS	49	Rashad Johnson (6-0, 186, Jr.)
SS	20	Marcus Carter (6-0, 200, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	86	Jamie Christensen (6-0, 183, Sr.)
P	11	P.J. Fitzgerald (5-11, 188, So.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	5

'Sabanation' expecting miracles from Nick, but 2007 unlikely to produce anything special

Nick Saban and Mike Shula have the same number of letters in their names and both once played quarterback.

Alabama fans are hoping that's where the similarity ends.

After years of riding college football's roller coaster—up one season and down the next—Alabama went for the gold by shoving a pile of it at Saban, who in five years at LSU got that program on track to its greatest era ever.

Saban was handed a $32 million, eight-year guaranteed contract to do in Tuscaloosa what he did in Baton Rouge (we won't mention his aborted two-year stint with the Miami Dolphins). And by that, we don't mean take 'Bama to the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

The Crimson Tide faithful want to win championships again. It has been 15 years since Alabama won its last national title, eight years since it won an SEC championship or even played in the SEC Championship Game.

Coaches like Mike Dubose, Dennis Franchione and Shula brought slivers of success, but nothing permanent. Alabama fans are starving for consistent, big-time winning, just like the Bear Bryant days.

Can Saban do that? Can anyone? Right now, 'Bama fans certainly believe. Why else would they have packed Bryant-Denny Stadium for the "A-Day" spring game, filling its 92,138 seats so completely that Alabama officials had to turn folks away at halftime. It was believed to be the largest crowd ever for a spring game anywhere.

Saban, who has never stayed anywhere longer than five seasons in his coaching career, came under withering criticism after stating flatly he would not be Alabama's new coach.

That was from outside the 'Bama nation—uh, make that the "Sabanation." Inside that country, there's been nothing but love.

Known for his defensive expertise, Saban hired young Offensive Coordinator Major Applewhite away from Rice and invited him to install a wide-open attack.

Alabama certainly has the tools to do just that, led by junior quarterback John Parker Wilson. Wilson completed 216 of 379 passes last year for 2,707 yards with 17 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Expect to see a lot of Wilson in shotgun formations as he throws to a bevy of receivers, led by seniors DJ Hall and Keith Brown. Senior Matt Caddell will typically be on the field as a third receiver.

Saban detests depth charts, so the tailback position coming out of the spring was a true mystery. Junior Jimmy Johns was No. 1 most of the spring, but freshman Terry Grant started on A-Day. Also, don't count out sophomore Glen Coffee.

With a load of experience and depth, the offensive line should be improved. All the starters return, though senior right tackle Chris Capps was hurt all spring and was replaced for most of the practices by junior B.J. Stabler, who had a knee scoped but is expected to be OK. The rest of the line includes sophomore left tackle Andre Smith, senior left guard Justin Britt, junior center Antoine Caldwell and junior right guard Marlon Davis. Junior Travis McCall is back at tight end.

Alabama's defense was middle-of-the-pack in the SEC last year and, while Saban's defensive prowess is well known, he can't fill all the holes himself. Saban installed a 3-4 alignment under new Defensive Coordinator Kevin Steele, with senior Wallace Gilberry and junior Bobby Greenwood manning the ends and converted offensive lineman Brian Motley taking over at nose tackle.

The linebacking corps isn't particularly deep. Sophomore Prince Hall is the top returning tackler with 77 stops. Senior cornerback Simeon Castille, who led the Tide with six interceptions last year, is one of the SEC's best.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **TERRY GRANT, RB**
A surprise spring-game starter ahead of Jimmy Johns, a junior. Nick Saban hates depth charts, but the job could be Grant's to lose.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Rolando McClain, LB, 6-4, 240**
   Big, physical defender from Mobile.
2. **Kerry Murphy, DL, 6-5, 315**
   Prep All-American from top-notch program.
3. **Michael Ricks, DB, 6-2, 195**
   Mississippi product is very mobile.
4. **Alex Watkins, DE, 6-5, 225**
   Touted pass rusher from Tennessee.
5. **Brandon Gibson, WR, 6-2, 190**
   Scouts rank Mobile receiver high.

Oxford » 2006 Record: 4-8 » SEC: 2-6

#5 » MISSISSIPPI REBELS

PRESEASON RANK

When Brent Schaeffer arrived at Ole Miss, he was supposed to be the next great thing at quarterback in Oxford—or at least the first great thing since Eli Manning left.

Heading into this season, he isn't even the Rebels' No. 1 signal-caller.

Either Coach Ed Orgeron is trying to send a message to his talented senior (who started every game and threw for 1,442 yards in 2006) or it really will be fellow senior Seth Adams who takes the first snap Sept. 1 at Memphis.

"Schaeffer has had some inconsistent days," Orgeron says. "We're keeping the quarterback position open, but Seth has the leg up for now. I'm not going to say Brent can't be the quarterback, but he has to be more consistent."

More dependable production at quarterback is all-important to the Ole Miss mission statement: breaking the cycle of three straight losing seasons, the Rebels' worst skid in 25 years.

Tony Fein, a junior college All-American who served a tour of duty in Iraq, takes over at middle linebacker for departed All-American and first-round NFL draft pick Patrick Willis. It's hard to imagine that the Rebels' defense could be better or even the equal of last year's unit without Willis, though it will be new Defensive Coordinator John Thompson's duty to try. Thompson coordinated the defense at Northwestern State when Orgeron, who called his own defensive formations the last two seasons, was a defensive lineman there.

Whoever is the quarterback, the offensive line in front of him should be a team strength, as left guard Reid Neely is the only new starter. The running-back corps is led by bruising senior BenJarvus Green-Ellis, who became just the third 1,000-yard rusher in Ole Miss history last year.

Head Coach: Ed Orgeron
3rd Year (7-16)
Career Record: 7-16
Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium
Tickets: 888-732-8587
Capacity: 60,580
Official athletic Web site:
www.olemisssports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 4
2005 — 3
2004 — 4
2003 — 10 (C)
2002 — 7 (C)

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@MEMPHIS	28-25
S. 8	**Missouri**	7-34
S. 15	@VANDERBILT	17-10
S. 22	**Florida**	
S. 29	@GEORGIA	9-14
O. 6	**Louisiana Tech**	
O. 13	**Alabama**	23-26 (OT)
O. 20	**Arkansas**	3-38
O. 27	@AUBURN	17-23
N. 3	**Northwestern State**	27-7
N. 17	**LSU**	20-23 (OT)
N. 23	@MISS. STATE	20-17

» GAME TO WATCH «

Take a contentious in-state rivalry, mix in a hint of desperation and you have a game worth watching. If the Rebels are to receive a bowl bid, they will likely need this one.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **47/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	19	Seth Adams (6-4, 225, Sr.)
FB	44	Jason Cook (6-0, 240, Jr.)
RB	6	B. Green-Ellis (5-11, 225, Sr.)
LT	74	Michael Oher (6-5, 325, Jr.)
LG	71	Reid Neely (6-6, 300, So.)
C	51	Corey Actis (6-5, 290, Sr.)
RG	77	John Jerry (6-5, 360, So.)
RT	79	Maurice Miller (6-3, 350, Jr.)
TE	15	Robert Lane (6-3, 240, Sr.)
SE	80	Shay Hodge (6- 1, 195, So.)
FL	22	Dexter McCluster (5-9, 165, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	92	Marcus Tillman (6-4, 260, So.)
NT	54	Jeremy Garrett (6-1, 290, Sr.)
DT	98	Peria Jerry (6-2, 300, Jr.)
DE	46	Kentrell Lockett (6-5, 225, r-Fr.)
SLB	33	Antonio Turner (6-1, 235, Jr.)
MLB		Tony Fein (6-2, 245, So.)
WLB	45	Jamie Phillips (6-0, 220, So.)
LCB	12	Dustin Mouzon (5-11, 175, Jr.)
RCB	24	Cassius Vaughn (5-11, 180, So.)
FS	1	Kendrick Lewis (6-0, 185, So.)
SS	13	Jamarca Sanford (5-10, 200, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	93	Joshua Shene (5-9, 170, So.)
P	36	Rob Park (6-0, 185, Jr.)

Starkville » 2006 Record: 3-9 » SEC: 1-7

#6 » MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

PRESEASON RANK

The Mississippi State Bulldogs have taken up roots in the SEC West cellar. They've spent enough time down there to put in a game room and a big-screen TV they can use to watch their upsets of Alabama and Florida that State has pulled off in recent years—and those now-long-ago bowl trips.

As comfortable as the Bulldogs have gotten down there, the goal is to get back on the main floor in the SEC Western Division. This season, they're as close to climbing the stairs of respectability as they've been in some time.

The excitement is on offense, where State returns 10 starters—and a former head coach. Rockey Felker, the ex-State quarterback who was serving as Coach Sylvester Croom's administrative assistant, is back on the field as running backs coach as well as recruiting coordinator.

Felker has some talent to work with in the backfield, as the Bulldogs return their top three rushers from 2006, led by sophomore Anthony Dixon (668 yards, 9 TDs).

The key to the offense is sustaining the health of junior quarterback Michael Henig, who threw for 1,201 yards, seven TDs and nine interceptions last season. He has as deep a receiving corps to throw to as the Bulldogs have had since their glory days in the late 1990s. It's led by senior Tony Burks (35 catches, 850 yards, 5 TDs) and junior Jamayel Smith (20, 335, 2). Mike Brown, a transfer from Florida, returns at left tackle, where his presence late last season led to a marked decrease in pressure on Henig.

As promising as the offense is, the defense is a question mark. The Bulldogs lost two of their best in middle linebacker Quinton Culberson and tackle Deljuan Robinson, and will be hard-pressed to replace them. Junior Jamar Chaney slides over from the weakside spot to fill Culberson's position.

Head Coach: Sylvester Croom
4th Year (9-25)
Career Record: 9-25
Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium
Tickets: 888-GO-DAWGS
Capacity: 55,082
Official athletic Web site:
www.mstateathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 3
2005 — 3
2004 — 3
2003 — 2
2002 — 3

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**LSU**	17-48
S. 8	@TULANE	29-32
S. 15	@AUBURN	0-34
S. 22	**Gardner-Webb**	
S. 29	@SO. CAROLINA	0-15
O. 6	**UAB**	16-10 (OT)
O. 13	**Tennessee**	
O. 20	@WEST VIRGINIA	14-42
O. 27	@KENTUCKY	31-34
N. 10	**Alabama**	24-16
N. 17	@ARKANSAS@	14-28
N. 23	**Mississippi**	17-20

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Bulldogs have won sparingly in recent years, but have upsets over the likes of Florida and Alabama. Can State derail the Tigers' title hopes early?

** at Little Rock, AR*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **43/22**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Michael Henig (6-1, 190, Jr.)
HB	24	Anthony Dixon (6-1, 240, So.)
FB	35	Brandon Hart (5-11, 235, Jr.)
LT	77	Mike Brown (6-3, 300, Jr.)
LG	53	Anthony Strauder (6-3, 295, Jr.)
C	76	Royce Blackledge (6-4, 293, Sr.)
RG	60	J.D. Hamilton (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RT	75	Craig Jenkins (6-4, 315, So.)
TE	88	Eric Butler (6-3, 255, Sr.)
WR	4	Tony Burks (6-4, 217, Sr.)
WR	89	Jamayel Smith (6-0, 183, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	54	Titus Brown (6-3, 250, Sr.)
LT	90	Cortez McCraney (6-4, 262, Jr.)
RT	94	Jessie Bowman (6-1, 315, Jr.)
RE	51	Avery Hannibal (6-1, 245, Sr.)
SLB	5	Gabe O'Neal (6-1, 220, Sr.)
MLB	22	Jamar Chaney (6-1, 236, Jr.)
WLB	36	Jamon Hughes (6-0, 230, So.)
LCB	11	Anthony Johnson (5-10, 194, So.)
RCB	18	Marcus Washington (5-10, 180, So.)
FS	3	Derek Pegues (5-10, 196, Jr.)
SS	8	De'Mon Glanton (6-1, 190, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Adam Carlson (6-4, 195, Jr.)
P	43	Blake McAdams (5-10, 190, Jr.)

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. A WAC team won't crash the BCS bowl party again, but the conference will produce its second Heisman Trophy winner: Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan.

2. Two seasons removed from a winless campaign, Hal Mumme's New Mexico State Aggies will break a 47-year postseason drought and play in the New Mexico Bowl.

3. San Jose State's Dwight Lowery will get eight more interceptions and finish his career with 17, the most ever by someone who played only two seasons in the conference.

4. After spending all season distancing itself from talk about the trick plays used in the Fiesta Bowl victory, Boise State will beat Hawaii in its regular-season finale—and clinch the conference title—with a perfectly executed fake punt.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Chris Williams, New Mexico State

BEST HANDS
Davone Bess, WR, Hawaii

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Colt Brennan, Hawaii

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Colt Brennan, Hawaii

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Yonus Davis, San Jose State

BEST INSTINCTS
Dwight Lowery, CB, San Jose State

BEST ATHLETE
Patrick Johnson, RB/KR, Louisiana Tech

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Ian Johnson, RB, Boise State

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Colt Brennan, QB, Hawaii

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Peter Caldwell, K, Utah State

HARDEST HITTER
Adam Leonard, LB, Hawaii

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Tom Brandstater, QB, Fresno State

WAC

www.wacsports.com

With national-honors candidates galore, WAC won't be resting on laurels

By **LAURENCE MIEDEMA**
San Jose Mercury News

With teams spread across four time zones, it's difficult for the WAC to get steady national exposure. But the conference's visibility and credibility reached new heights last season, largely because of Boise State's thrilling overtime win over Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl.

That might have just been the start.

Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan and Boise State running back Ian Johnson are strong preseason candidates in the Heisman Trophy race after finishing sixth and eighth, respectively, in the voting last fall. San Jose State cornerback Dwight Lowery and Boise State offensive tackle Ryan Clady have made several preseason All-America teams.

Some of the nation's top returning statistical leaders are from the WAC: Lowery and Idaho's Stanley Franks led the country with nine interceptions apiece. New Mexico State receiver Chris Williams led the nation in receptions and yards per game. Johnson scored the most touchdowns (25). Brennan threw the most touchdowns (58) by a Division I-A quarterback ever.

But as the conference's exposure widens, the competitive gap within it is narrowing.

Boise State and Hawaii enter the season as the favorites to win the league championship. But San Jose State, Nevada, Fresno State and New Mexico State all have pieces in place that could turn the title chase into a mad scramble. Louisiana Tech, Idaho and Utah State are at least a year away.

The Broncos are the six-time defending conference champion (Nevada was the co-champ in 2005) and coming off a 13-0 season, but they have significant question marks. Boise State is looking for a new quarterback and receivers, and lost key pieces to its dominant defense.

Hawaii can outscore anybody, and with an improved defense could be this year's Boise State.

San Jose State and Nevada both played in bowls last season, but newcomers at key positions will go a long way in determining if those squads return to the postseason. Fresno State appears poised to rebound from an underachieving 2006 campaign, and New Mexico State, with the most exciting offense in the country this side of Hawaii, might be the most improved team in the conference.

It should be an interesting fall.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. BOISE STATE ▸ Four-star quarterback Kellen Moore tops a prep-heavy class.
2. FRESNO STATE ▸ Signed 10 All-State California preps.
3. HAWAII ▸ Small class, but junior-college defenders will help immediately.
4. SAN JOSE STATE ▸ Instant help from junior-college receivers and defensive backs.
5. LOUISIANA TECH ▸ Found potential help for secondary.
6. NEVADA ▸ No QB, but lots of linemen and linebackers.
7. IDAHO ▸ Solid collection of talent despite just three weeks to recruit.
8. NEW MEXICO STATE ▸ More than half of the class is defense.
9. UTAH STATE ▸ Juco quarterback Sean Setzer could start this fall.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-WAC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Colt Brennan, Sr., Hawaii	Tyler Clutts, Sr., Fresno State	DL
RB	Ian Johnson, Jr., Boise State	Justin Cole, So., San Jose State	DL
RB	Yonus Davis, Sr., San Jose State	Ben Calderwood, Jr., Utah State	DL
OL	Ryan Clady, Jr., Boise State	David Vorba, Sr., Idaho	DL
OL	Dominic Green, Jr., Nevada	Matt Castelo, Sr., San Jose State	LB
OL	Ryan Wendell, Sr., Fresno State	Ezra Butler, Sr., Nevada	LB
OL	Jeff Cavender, Sr., Boise State	Adam Leonard, Jr., Hawaii	LB
OL	Hercules Satele, Sr., Hawaii	Dwight Lowery, Sr., San Jose State	DB
WR	Chris Williams, Jr., New Mexico State	Marty Tadman, Sr., Boise State	DB
WR	Davone Bess, Jr., Hawaii	Stanley Franks, Sr., Idaho	DB
TE	Nick Cleaver, Sr., New Mexico State	Damon Jenkins, Sr., Fresno State	DB
PK	Dan Kelly, Jr., Hawaii	Waylon Prather, Sr., San Jose State	P

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

P. 124 STOCK: STEADY — BOISE STATE 1
P. 125 STOCK: UP — HAWAII 2
P. 126 STOCK: UP — FRESNO STATE 3
P. 127 STOCK: UP — NEW MEXICO STATE 4
P. 127 STOCK: STEADY — SAN JOSE STATE 5
P. 128 STOCK: DOWN — NEVADA 6
P. 128 STOCK: UP — LOUISIANA TECH 7
P. 129 STOCK: STEADY — UTAH STATE 8
P. 129 STOCK: STEADY — IDAHO 9

TOP 25 SELECTION

#1 BOISE STATE BRONCOS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 13-0 » **WAC:** 8-0 *(beat Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl, 43-42 in OT)*

Boise, Idaho **Stadium:** Bronco Stadium (30,000) **Tickets:** 208-426-4737

Petersen determined that Broncos won't be relying on tricks for headlines in 2007

What can Boise State do for an encore?

In 2006, all the Broncos did was go undefeated and become the media darlings of the college football world. It was a great story when Boise State, led by a rookie head coach, forced its way into a BCS invitation. It became much, much more when, after blowing a huge lead in the Fiesta Bowl, the Broncos used three trick plays to beat Oklahoma in overtime in what many believe was the greatest bowl game ever played.

What followed was just as unbelievable. The Broncos finished with a No. 5 ranking in the final *AP* poll—even earning a first-place vote. A documentary about the season is set for release this fall, and the rights to a feature film were purchased over the winter. Last year's quarterback, Jared Zabransky, was picked as the cover boy for a video game.

Heady stuff, for sure. But with huge holes to fill on both sides of the ball and an even larger target than usual, the Broncos can't afford to live off of their highlight clips. During spring practices players were forbidden from wearing any of their Fiesta Bowl garb.

"You kind of talk about it as if it were a movie or something, but not as if it were a part of your life," says junior tailback Ian Johnson, who famously made an on-field proposal to his girlfriend, Broncos cheerleader Chrissy Popadics, after he scored the winning two-point conversion against the Sooners. The couple's wedding was scheduled shortly before the Broncos opened fall camp.

"[Otherwise], you're living in the past," Johnson adds.

Coach Chris Petersen, whose debut as the successor to Dan Hawkins couldn't have gone any better, says he wants his squad to remember what got them to the Fiesta Bowl, not the flashy plays that won it.

"We want to be known as a blue-collar outfit," Petersen says, "that does things the hard way."

It certainly won't be easy for the Broncos to recapture last season's magic. The offense lost six starters, including Zabransky and his top four receivers. The defense, as large a factor as any for last season's breakthrough, lost six regulars, including All-WAC defensive lineman Andrew Browning and WAC Defensive Player-of-the-Year Korey Hall at linebacker. The Broncos also have to replace their punter and kicker.

But this program has survived significant roster turnover before. It has won or shared the WAC title the past six seasons. Since 1999, Boise State has the best winning percentage (.843) of any team in Division I-A football. The Broncos are 86-16 during that stretch and have won at least 10 games in six of those eight seasons.

The most obvious change on offense is at quarterback, where Zabransky must be replaced. In the spring, Bush Hamdan, a junior, and Taylor Tharp, a senior, distanced themselves from Mike Coughlin and Nick Lomax. But Petersen says the job likely won't be decided until late in fall camp. Hamdan, a third-stringer last season, had the strongest spring of the competitors, but Tharp, the No. 2 man the previous two seasons, has the most experience.

Last season, Boise State had the sixth-best rushing offense in the country, averaging 214.2 yards per game and scoring 39 touchdowns on the ground. There is no reason to believe the Broncos won't be just as good in 2007, with Johnson back and running behind four returning linemen: preseason All-America left tackle Ryan Clady, Jeff Cavender, Andrew Woodruff and Tad Miller.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» VINNY PERRETTA, WR

Secured his spot in Bronco lore with a fourth-down touchdown pass in overtime at the Fiesta Bowl—but former part-timer now takes a starring role in the offense.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Kellen Moore, QB, 6-1, 180** *Washington prep star passed for 173 TDs.*
2. **Garcia Day, DB, 6-2, 190** *Junior-college product could start immediately.*
3. **Hunter White, LB, 5-11, 205** *Four-sport prep in future plans.*
4. **Antwon Murray, DB, 5-11, 180** *Athletic Florida native seeks early time.*
5. **Garrett Pendergast, OL, 6-3, 275** *Recruit from top SoCal program.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	5

» **Head Coach:** Chris Petersen
2nd Year (13-0) **Career Record:** 13-0

Official athletic Web site: www.broncosports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**Weber State**	
S. 8	@WASHINGTON	
S. 15	**Wyoming**	17-10
S. 27	**Southern Miss**	
O. 7	**New Mexico State**	40-28
O. 14	**Nevada**	38-7
O. 20	@LOUISIANA TECH	55-14
O. 26	@FRESNO STATE	45-21
N. 3	**San Jose State**	23-20
N. 10	@UTAH STATE	49-10
N. 17	**Idaho**	42-26
N.23	» @HAWAII	41-34

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Broncos' hopes of a sixth consecutive league title and another perfect regular season could be on the line in Honolulu.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	13
2005	9
2004	11
2003	13
2002	12

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **12**
Lettermen returning/lost: **38/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Taylor Tharp (6-2, 210, Sr.)
RB	41	Ian Johnson (5-11, 194, Jr.)
LT	79	Ryan Clady (6-6, 319, Jr.)
LG	66	Tad Miller (6-4, 304, Sr.)
C	54	Jeff Cavender (6-2, 286, Sr.)
RG	60	Andrew Woodruff (6-3, 331, Jr.)
RT	75	Dan Gore (6-5, 300, Sr.)
TE	39	Ryan Putnam (6-2, 244, Sr.)
TE	40	Richie Brockel (6-2, 247, So.)
WR	19	Vinny Perretta (5-9, 194, Jr.)
WR	9	Jeremy Childs (6-0, 184, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	97	Nick Schlekeway (6-4, 262, Sr.)
DT	67	Joe Bozikovich (6-1, 295, Jr.)
DT	90	Ian Smart (6-3, 278, Sr.)
DE	93	Mike Williams (6-4, 238, Jr.)
OLB	44	Kyle Gingg (5-11, 215, Jr.)
MLB	43	David Shields (6-1, 225, Jr.)
OLB	24	Tim Brady (6-1, 221, Jr.)
CB	8	Orlando Scandrick (5-11, 187, Jr.)
CB	22	Kyle Wilson (5-10, 186, So.)
S	20	Marty Tadman (5-11, 182, Sr.)
S	37	Austin Smith (5-9, 173, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	20	Kyle Brotzman (5-10, 172, r-Fr.)
P	20	Kyle Brotzman (5-10, 172, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

HAWAII RAINBOW WARRIORS

2006 Record: 11-3 » WAC: 7-1 *(beat Arizona State in the Hawaii Bowl, 41-24)*

Stadium: Aloha Stadium (50,000) **Tickets:** 808-944-2697 **Honolulu**

« # 2
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: June Jones**
9th Year (64-40) **Career Record:** 64-40

Official athletic Web site: www.hawaiiathletics.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Northern Colorado**	
S. 8	@LOUISIANA TECH	61-17
S. 15	@UNLV	42-13
S. 22	**Charleston Southern**	
S. 29	@IDAHO	68-10
O. 6	**Utah State**	63-10
O. 12	@SAN JOSE STATE	54-17
0.27	» **New Mexico State**	49-30
N. 10	**Fresno State**	68-37
N. 16	@NEVADA	41-34
N. 23	**Boise State**	34-41
D. 1	**Washington**	

» GAME TO WATCH «

This showdown between the top two passing offenses in the country could produce 100 attempts and more than 1,000 yards through the air.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11	C, B
2005	5	
2004	8	C
2003	9	C, B
2002	10	C, B

C CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL N NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **70/19**

» OFFENSE

QB	15	Colt Brennan (6-3, 196, Sr.)
RB		Leon Wright-Jackson (6-2, 210, So.)
LT	78	Keoni Steinhoff (6-3, 269, So.)
LG	65	Hercules Satele (6-2, 288, Sr.)
C	77	Aaron Kia (6-4, 283, So.)
RG	55	John Estes (6-2, 290, So.)
RT	62	Keith Ah-Soon (6-1, 294, Jr.)
WR	19	C.J. Hawthorne (5-11, 161, Sr.)
WR	1	Ryan Grice-Mullen (5-10, 179, Jr.)
WR	7	Davone Bess (5-10, 195, Jr.)
WR	84	Jason Rivers (6-2, 192, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	94	David Veikune (6-3, 258, Jr.)
DT	93	Keala Watson (6-3, 328, Jr.)
DT	67	Michael Lafaele (6-0, 302, Sr.)
DE	12	Karl Noa (6-4, 238, Sr.)
STUD	53	Blaze Soares (6-1, 224, So.)
MAC	17	Solomon Elimimian (6-0, 224, Jr.)
BUC	44	Adam Leonard (6-0, 236, Jr.)
CB	23	Gerard Lewis (5-9, 168, Sr.)
CB	3	Myron Newberry (5-8, 164, Sr.)
FS	24	Desmond Thomas (6-3, 171, Jr.)
SS	31	Jacob Patek (6-0, 202, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	86	Dan Kelly (6-3, 199, So.)
P	95	Jeremy Shibata (5-8, 246, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	4

Hawaii's Colt bucking for a Heisman and a WAC title

Hawaii's run-and-shoot offense always makes for entertaining football and video-game-like statistics. But after tying a school record with 11 victories last season, the Rainbow Warriors sense a higher calling: a conference title and a chance to crash the BCS party.

The Warriors finished last season ranked No. 24 in the *USA Today* coaches poll and have reason to believe they can be the team that finally knocks Boise State out of the top spot in the WAC. After all, Colt Brennan passed on early entry into the NFL and is back for his senior year after producing one of the greatest seasons by a quarterback in college football history. Also returning are Brennan's top three receivers and the bulk of an improving defense.

Last season, Brennan finished sixth in the Heisman voting after he broke or tied 16 NCAA records, 10 WAC records and 25 school records. Not only did he lead the nation with 5,549 passing yards and 58 touchdown passes (breaking David Klingler's previous mark of 54), but Brennan also completed 72.6 percent of his attempts, threw just 12 interceptions (in 599 attempts) and established an NCAA record with a pass-efficiency rating of 186.0.

Brennan was able to produce such mind-numbing numbers largely because he had time to throw. Protecting him will be a key after the loss to graduation of a trio of three-year starters on the offensive line: center Samson Satele and tackles Tala Esera and Dane Uperesa. Guards John Estes and Hercules Satele are the lone returnees on the line.

Hawaii broke spring camp unsure of who would take over in the backfield in its one-back set after the departures of workhorse Nate Ilaoa (990 rushing yards, 67 receptions) and top backup Reagan Mauia. But it was not from a lack of options. The Warriors looked at 13 candidates, and no one emerged as a clear No. 1 on the depth chart.

So, the jockeying at running back is far from over. Nebraska transfer Leon Wright-Jackson, a mega-recruit coming out of high school, will arrive in the fall and should quickly emerge.

QB › Colt Brennan

Hawaii has no shortage of game-breaking receivers. The trio of Davone Bess, Jason Rivers and Ryan Grice-Mullen caught a combined 214 passes for 3,168 yards and 36 touchdowns last season. Bess, a junior, led the way with 96 receptions, and he and Rivers, a senior, gave the Warriors a pair of 1,000-yard receivers for the second year in a row. Grice-Mullen, a junior, missed four games because of injuries last season, but caught 85 passes for a team-best 1,228 yards and 12 TDs in 2005.

Although the offense gets most of the attention, one of the reasons Hawaii was able to make a six-win improvement last year was because it played better defense. The defense returns eight starters, but it will have a new identity with Greg McMackin taking over at defensive coordinator for Jerry Glanville, who left to be coach at Portland State. After two seasons of a 3-4 set, the Warriors are moving back to a 4-3, which should benefit a strong group of linebackers.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **LEON WRIGHT-JACKSON, RB**
One of the country's top-rated recruits in 2005 changed positions twice at Nebraska, but he should find a nice home in the Hawaii backfield.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Leon Jackson, RB/DB, 6-2, 210**
Transfer from Nebraska is highly rated.
2. **Ryan Mouton, DB, 5-10, 185**
Juco All-American can play now.
3. **Korey Reynolds, DE, 6-3, 250**
Played at top Alabama prep program.
4. **Joshua Leonard, DE, 6-4, 275**
Another honored juco prospect.
5. **Erik Robinson, DB, 5-11, 195**
JC Texan should contribute soon.

DAVID ALLIO / ICON SMI

#3 FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 4-8 » WAC: 4-4

Fresno, Calif. **Stadium:** Bulldog Stadium (41,031) **Tickets:** 559-278-DOGS

Bulldogs looking to bounce back from uncharacteristic swoon

It was just two seasons ago that Fresno State was the great hope for the non-BCS crowd. But since mid-November 2005, when the 8-1 Bulldogs took eventual national champion USC to the limit before suffering a heart-breaking 50-42 loss, nothing has gone right for this proud program.

The four-game losing streak to end 2005 was bad, but last season was even worse. The Bulldogs suffered through inconsistency and injuries to finish 4-8, the most losses seen in the Valley in 30 years. The result was a fifth-place finish and no bowl game for FSU for the first time since 1998.

However, 11th-year Coach Pat Hill and his staff were able to turn key positions over to many of the young players on the roster, particularly at the skill slots. The Bulldogs enter the fall with a young, battle-tested squad intent on restoring the luster to Fresno State's legacy.

"We have a lot of young players who are very talented and work extremely hard," says Hill, who delayed the start of spring drills by four weeks so his team could extend its offseason strength-and-conditioning program, and the result was 13 weight-room records.

"They have a chip on their shoulder after last season, which is a good thing. We just want to put the 2006 season away and focus on 2007."

A more consistent offense will go a long way in helping the Bulldogs put last season behind them and hold off the new wave of title contenders.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **LONYAE MILLER, RB**
Strong, explosive back averaged 5.3 yards per carry as a true freshman and is perfect for the Bulldogs' power-running system.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Ryan Matthews, RB, 5-11, 205**
Led California in prep rushing in 2006.
2. **Tim Lang, QB/ATH, 6-0, 190**
Speed makes him a candidate to play now.
3. **Matt Faulkner, QB, 6-2, 185**
Strong-armed Texan QB of future for Bulldogs?
4. **Eric Sproal, OL, 6-4, 280**
Athletic lineman should contribute early.
5. **Isaiah Green, DB, 5-10, 180**
Speedster from famed Long Beach Poly program.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	4

Fresno State typically has the personnel to score points in a hurry, but last year the Bulldogs averaged just 23 points per game, sixth in the conference.

Enter Jim McElwain, who will be the program's third offensive coordinator in as many seasons. Bulldogs fans have complained in recent years that the squad's offense is too conservative. Although Fresno needs to find a new starting tailback to replace departed 1,400-yard rusher Dwayne Wright, this will still be a power-running team. But McElwain, the Oakland Raiders' quarterback coach last season who formerly worked with John L. Smith at Michigan State and Louisville, implemented several intriguing new twists in the playbook, including four- and five-receiver sets.

The biggest key to the Bulldog offense is quarterback Tom Brandstater. The 6-foot-5, 220-pound junior had a topsy-turvy debut as the successor to Paul Pinegar and he took the brunt of the criticism for the team's struggles.

Brandstater was solid in a season-opening win over Nevada, completing 16 of 24 attempts for 124 yards and a touchdown. But it was a wild ride from there. He threw more interceptions (14) than touchdown passes (13), barely completed half his attempts and was briefly benched in the middle of the year. He ended the season by throwing four interceptions against San Jose State.

Protection wasn't a problem a year ago, when the Bulldogs' offensive line set a school record by yielding only 12 sacks. It shouldn't be this season either, with four of the starters returning: center Ryan Wendell, guards Adam McDowell and Cole Popovich and left tackle Bobby Lepori.

Coming out of spring camp, things weren't so clear on the defensive side of things—particularly in the secondary, where Hill said all four spots were still up for grabs. Ahijah Lane, the only returnee on defense who started every game last season, moves to the middle-linebacker spot vacated by all-conference performer Dwayne Andrews. The linebacking group might be the fastest in the conference, which should put some bite back in the Bulldog defense. Three starters return to the line, paced by senior Tyler Clutts, who led FSU with five sacks last season.

» **Head Coach: Pat Hill**
11th Year (76-51) **Career Record:** 76-51

Official athletic Web site: www.gobulldogs.com

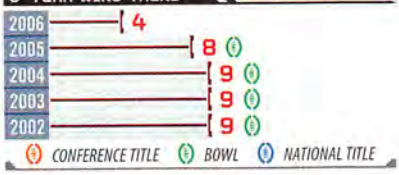
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Sacramento State**	
S. 8	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 15	@OREGON	24-31
S.29	» **Louisiana Tech**	34-27
O. 6	@NEVADA	28-19
O. 13	@IDAHO	34-0
O. 20	**San Jose State**	14-24
O. 26	**Boise State**	21-45
N. 3	**Utah State**	12-13
N. 10	@HAWAII	37-68
N. 24	**Kansas State**	
D. 1	@NEW MEXICO STATE	23-18

GAME TO WATCH

After tough non-conference games at Texas A&M and Oregon, the Bulldogs can't afford a slow start to conference play if they expect to contend.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **47/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	7	Tom Brandstater (6-5, 220, Jr.)
TB	1	Lonyae Miller (5-11, 215, So.)
FB	48	Reynard Camp (6-0, 250, So.)
LT	72	Bobby Lepori (6-5, 285, Jr.)
LG	62	Cole Popovich (6-2, 290, Jr.)
C	77	Ryan Wendell (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RG	76	Adam McDowell (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RT	73	Kenny Avon (6-3, 285, Jr.)
TE	85	Bear Pascoe (6-5, 260, Jr.)
WR	6	Chastin West (6-1, 215, So.)
WR	5	Marlon Moore (6-1, 185, So.)

» DEFENSE

DE	7	Jason Roberts (6-5, 250, So.)
NT	94	Jon Monga (6-2, 280, Jr.)
DT	42	Charles Tolbert (5-11, 265, Sr.)
DE	11	Tyler Clutts (6-2, 245, Sr.)
OLB	31	Marcus Riley (6-2, 220, Sr.)
MLB	43	Ahijah Lane (6-1, 225, Sr.)
OLB	32	Quaadir Brown (6-2, 220, r-So.)
CB	22	Damon Jenkins (5-11, 180, Sr.)
CB	4	Damion Owens (6-1, 185, So.)
FS	19	Marvin Haynes (6-1, 205, So.)
SS	3	Moses Harris (6-1, 200, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Clint Stitser (6-1, 200, Sr.)
P	35	Kyle Zimmerman (5-11, 200, Sr.)

Las Cruces » 2006 Record: 4-8 » WAC: 2-6

NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES (((#4

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Hal Mumme
3rd Year (4-20)
Career Record: 101-84-1
Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium
Tickets: 505-646-1420
Capacity: 30,343
Official athletic Web site:
www.nmstatesports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 4
2005 — 0
2004 — 5
2003 — 3
2002 — 7

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**SE Louisiana**	30-15
S. 8	**@NEW MEXICO**	28-34
S. 15	**UTEP**	38-44
S. 22	@AUBURN	
S. 29	**Ark.-Pine Bluff**	
O. 7	@BOISE STATE	28-40
O. 13	@La. TECH	50-23
O. 20	**Idaho**	20-28
O. 27	@HAWAII	30-49
N. 2	**Nevada**	21-48
N. 10	@SAN JOSE ST.	21-31
N. 17	**Utah State**	42-20
D. 1	**Fresno State**	18-23

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

If the Aggies really are primed for a breakout season, it'll show on the road against their in-state rival.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **19**
Lettermen returning/lost: **47/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	12	Chase Holbrook (6-5, 235, Jr.)
RB	30	Jeremiah Williams (6-0, 205, Jr.)
LT	69	Mike Martinez (6-3, 335, Jr.)
LG	67	Joseph Palmer (6-2, 309, So.)
C	63	Richie Bolin (6-1, 270, Jr.)
RG	65	Polo Gutierrez (6-1, 296, Jr.)
RT	55	James Farrelly (6-3, 294, Sr.)
TE	40	Nick Cleaver (6-3, 235, Sr.)
WR	18	A.J. Harris (6-1, 210, Jr.)
WR	28	Chris Williams (5-8, 155, Jr.)
WR	19	Derek Dubois (5-9, 170, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	44	Brandon McKinney (6-3, 290, Jr.)
NG	50	Ray Manumaleuna (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RE	45	Maurice Murray (6-3, 290, Sr.)
LBW	24	Kramer Winningham (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB	42	Dante Flyod (6-0, 232, Sr.)
LOB	11	La'Auli Fonoti (6-4, 250, Jr.)
ROB	59	Michael Brewer (6-2, 224, Sr.)
LCB	36	Alex Bernard (5-8, 185, Sr.)
RCB	29	Cole Marton (6-0, 195, Sr.)
FS	22	Derrick Richardson (5-11, 190, Jr.)
SS	6	Gerald Gurrier (5-10, 191, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	48	Matt Pratt (5-10, 175, Jr.)
P	5	Jared Kaufman (6-1, 186, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

New Mexico State took a big step last season, earning four victories after a miserable winless 2005 campaign and snapping a 21-game losing streak against Division I-A opponents along the way. Now, can the Aggies get over the hump and reach a bowl game for the first time since 1960?

Everything seems to point to a breakthrough. Third-year Coach Hal Mumme has 19 starters returning from a squad that lost three games by less than a touchdown and had five of its eight losses decided by 10 or fewer points. For the second time in school history, the Aggies have seven home games. And there is momentum coming off a two-game winning streak to end last season.

The Aggies are going to go as far as their offense can take them. It largely rests on the strong right arm of junior quarterback Chase Holbrook.

Holbrook, who sat out the 2005 season after following Mumme from Southeastern Louisiana (where Mumme was previously head coach), threw for 4,619 yards, breaking Ty Detmer's NCAA record for a sophomore. Holbrook was efficient as well as prolific. He completed 70 percent of his attempts, threw 34 touchdowns passes and was intercepted just nine times in 567 attempts.

Mumme's "Air Raid" offense could be even more productive this season, especially if the Aggies can run the ball—or at least keep teams honest. After tailback Justine Buries was lost to a knee injury in the second game, NMSU's running game was little more than a rumor. The Aggies averaged 2.8 yards per carry and barely 75 yards per game, so teams focused on pressuring Holbrook and he was sacked 39 times.

The top six receivers are back, led by junior Chris Williams, who caught 92 passes for 1,415 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. In all, Holbrook has four targets who caught at least 50 passes in '06.

San Jose, Calif. » 2006 Record: 9-4 » WAC: 5-3

(beat New Mexico in the New Mexico Bowl, 20-12)

SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS (((#5

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Dick Tomey
3rd Year (12-12)
Career Record: 170-122-7
Stadium: Spartan Stadium
Tickets: 877-757-8849
Capacity: 30,456
Official athletic Web site:
www.sjsuspartans.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 9
2005 — 3
2004 — 2
2003 — 3
2002 — 6

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@ARIZONA STATE	
S. 8	@KANSAS STATE	
S. 15	@STANFORD	35-34
S. 22	@UTAH STATE	21-14
S. 29	**California-Davis**	
O. 6	**Idaho**	28-13
O. 12	**HAWAII**	17-54
O. 20	@FRESNO STATE	24-14
N. 3	@BOISE STATE	20-23
N. 10	**New Mexico State**	31-21
N. 17	@La. TECH	44-10
N. 24	**Nevada**	7-23

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

This could be the tone-setter for the Spartans' title hopes. It's the first contest in a four-game stretch against the WAC's best.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **43/17**

» OFFENSE

QB	17	Adam Tafralis (6-1, 219, Sr.)
RB	42	James T. Callier (6-0, 225, Sr.)
RB	34	Yonus Davis (5-7, 185, Sr.)
LT	71	Jibri Sharp (6-3, 350, Sr.)
LG	79	Ronnie Castillo (6-0, 292, So.)
C	68	Justin Paysinger (6-1, 298, Jr.)
RG	69	John Booker (6-4, 345, Sr.)
RT	77	Bradis McGriff (6-6, 335, Jr.)
TE	9	Jeff Clark (6-5, 250, Sr.)
WR	88	Jalal Beauchman (6-4, 220, So.)
WR	4	Michael Hooper (5-9, 163, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	53	Jarron Gilbert (6-6, 280, Jr.)
DT	96	Adonis Davis (6-1, 295, So.)
DT	91	Jerome Pulu (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DE	93	Justin Cole (6-3, 240, So.)
LB	46	Demetrius Jones (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LB	35	Matt Castelo (5-10, 230, Sr.)
LB	48	Ryno Gonzalez (6-1, 215, So.)
CB	25	Dwight Lowery (6-1, 185, Sr.)
CB	29	Christopher Owens (5-10, 170, Jr.)
S	22	Andrew Ryan (6-0, 195, Jr.)
S	33	Dominique Hunsucker (5-9, 194, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Jared Strubeck (5-8, 162, Jr.)
P	15	Waylon Prather (6-3, 225, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

San Jose State was one of college football's best success stories last fall, making a six-win improvement in the second season under Coach Dick Tomey and winning the school's first bowl appearance in 16 years.

Now, coming off a winning season for just the second time in 14 years, the challenge is for the Spartans to become a consistent winner. SJSU hasn't had back-to-back winning seasons since the early 1990s.

The Spartans return 13 starters and a large group of young backups could push for larger roles in 2007. But finding replacements at wide receiver and safety this fall is crucial if the Spartans are going to be back in the bowl hunt—and filling those positions with juco transfers was a priority of the incoming recruiting class.

Offensively, SJSU had a top-20 rushing attack nationally in 2006 and it figures to be even stronger this year with an improving offensive line returning mostly intact and a deep group of tailbacks led by 5-foot-7 dynamo Yonus Davis, who rushed for 1,007 yards last season and averaged 6.2 yards per carry. But a key last season was a big-play passing game and the emergence of quarterback Adam Tafralis.

Tafralis blossomed into an efficient passer, setting a school record by completing 65.6 percent of his attempts and ranking 11th in the nation in efficiency. He threw 21 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. However, the Spartans must replace his top three receivers, who accounted for 18 of the team's TD catches and 78 percent of its receptions.

The Spartans' defense made huge strides last season, yielding 20.8 points per game after giving up more than 32 each time out in 2005. The unit has most of its key players back, including All-America cornerback Dwight Lowery, whose nine interceptions were tied for most in the nation.

Reno » 2006 Record: 8-5 » WAC: 5-3

(lost to Miami in the MPC Computers Bowl, 21-20)

#6 » NEVADA WOLF PACK

PRESEASON RANK

Nevada has played in a bowl game each of the past two seasons and won a share of the conference title in 2005. But the Wolf Pack heads into the fall as a work-in-progress.

A solid defense and favorable home schedule will keep the Wolf Pack competitive. But the key to another title run will be how well Nevada can reload the "Pistol" offense, which lost its quarterback, top running back and top receiver from last season's 8-5 squad. Only five starters are back on offense, three on the line.

Nick Graziano has the inside track to be the new triggerman in Coach Chris Ault's innovative variation of the shotgun formation. The sophomore was solid in the spring and during brief relief appearances last season, but could get pushed by redshirt freshman Colin Kaepernick this fall.

The receiving corps is experienced, led by Marko Mitchell and Mike McCoy, who combined for 63 receptions and 13 touchdowns in 2006.

Nevada has lost its leading rusher for the second year in a row, but the position again should be solid. Luke Lippincott, a junior, rushed for 456 yards and had a better per-carry average (4.9) and scored more touchdowns (9) than last season's top back, Robert Hubbard. Brandon Fragger also figures to be a factor coming off a freshman season cut short by injury.

The Wolf Pack's special teams unit took a major hit late in the spring when De'Angelo Wilson, one of the top punt returners in the country last season, was dismissed from the squad for violating an unspecified team policy. Brian Fludd, a juco transfer, turned heads in the spring at receiver and could figure in as the return man.

Nevada should again boast one of the top defensive squads in the WAC. Seven starters return to a unit that yielded 19.2 points per game, the second fewest in the conference.

Head Coach: Chris Ault
23rd Year (185-78-1)
Career Record: 185-78-1
Stadium: Mackay Stadium
Tickets: 775-348-PACK
Capacity: 29,993
Official athletic Web site:
www.nevadawolfpack.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8
2005	9
2004	5
2003	6
2002	5

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@NEBRASKA	
S. 8	@NORTHWESTERN	31-21
S. 15	**Nicholls State**	
S. 29	**UNLV**	31-3
O. 6	Fresno State	18-28
O. 14	@BOISE STATE	7-38
O. 20	@UTAH STATE	42-0
O. 27	**Idaho**	45-7
N. 2	@NEW MEXICO ST.	48-21
N. 16	**Hawaii**	34-41
N. 24	@SAN JOSE ST.	23-7
D. 1	**Louisiana Tech**	42-0

GAME TO WATCH

Will new starters at quarterback and running back be up to speed in time for the WAC opener against a likely conference-title contender?

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **44/17**

OFFENSE

QB	8	Nick Graziano (6-1, 220, So.)
RB	7	Luke Lippincott (6-2, 215, Jr.)
WG	60	Greg Hall (6-3, 285, Jr.)
WT	73	Alonzo Durham (6-4, 290, So.)
C	61	Dominic Green (6-3, 295, Jr.)
ST	62	John Bender (6-8, 320, r-Fr.)
SG	75	Charles Manu (6-3, 300, Sr.)
Y	88	Adam Bishop (6-4, 245, Sr.)
Z	89	Mike McCoy (6-0, 190, Jr.)
X	86	Jack Darlington (6-2, 190, Jr.)
F	84	Marko Mitchell (6-4, 195, Jr.)

DEFENSE

DE	94	Mundrae Clifton (6-2, 292, Jr.)
NT	57	Matt Hines (6-1, 285, Sr.)
DE	48	Erics Clark (6-6, 270, Sr.)
BAN	56	Ezra Butler (6-2, 248, Sr.)
SLB	44	Jeremy Engstrom (6-1, 247, Sr.)
MLB	31	Kevin Porter (6-1, 240, So.)
WLB	30	Joshua Mauga (6-2, 245, Jr.)
CB	20	Devon Walker (6-0, 180, Sr.)
CB	35	Paul Pratt (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	49	Jonathon Amaya (6-2, 190, So.)
SS	17	Uche Anyanwu (6-4, 220, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Brett Jaekle (6-4, 210, Jr.)
P	69	Zacary Whited (6-2, 190, Sr.)

Ruston » 2006 Record: 3-10 » WAC: 1-7

#7 » LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS

PRESEASON RANK

Nobody fell harder in the WAC last season than Louisiana Tech, prompting big changes in Ruston. Jack Bicknell III, after three winning records in eight seasons, is gone, replaced by Derek Dooley. The son of former University of Georgia coaching legend Vince Dooley implemented new systems on both sides of the ball and made clear that every job was up for grabs.

Looking to inspire his squad, Dooley called on former Tech greats Terry Bradshaw and Karl Malone to address the team during spring camp.

The biggest challenge is shoring up what was the worst defense in the country last season. The Bulldogs allowed an average of 41.7 points and 483.2 yards per game, the most among the 119 Division I-A teams. Ten starters and seven backups return from that unit, although Dooley's first recruiting class was heavy on junior-college transfers who could impact the depth chart immediately.

Getting into the backfield was a priority in spring camp. Not only did the Bulldogs allow the second-most rushing yards in the nation, but they ranked last with eight sacks. To that end, the staff rotated linemen, looking for players who could give pressure off the edge. The coaches were pleasantly surprised by redshirt-freshman defensive end Randy Grigsby, a Ruston native who turned heads and forced his way into a starting job.

New Offensive Coordinator Frank Scelfo, architect of the dynamic Tulane offenses earlier this decade led by current NFL quarterbacks J.P. Losman and Patrick Ramsey, inherits a unit that returns most of its key players and would have been fine last season if it could have held on to the ball. After committing just 18 turnovers in 2005, the Bulldogs lost the ball 37 times last season, which tied for most in the country.

Head Coach: Derek Dooley
1st Year
Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium
Tickets: 318-257-3631
Capacity: 30,600
Official athletic Web site:
www.latechsports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	3
2005	7
2004	6
2003	5
2002	4

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Central Arkansas**	
S. 8	**Hawaii**	17-61
S. 15	@CALIFORNIA	
S. 29	@FRESNO STATE	27-34
O. 6	@MISSISSIPPI	
O. 13	**New Mexico State**	23-50
O. 20	**Boise State**	14-55
O. 27	@UTAH STATE	48-35
N. 3	@IDAHO	14-24
N. 10	@LSU	
N. 17	**San Jose State**	10-44
D. 1	@NEVADA	0-42

GAME TO WATCH

This is just the second meeting in 66 years, but beating their in-state rival for the first time since 1904 would be better than a bowl game for the Bulldogs.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **50/14**

OFFENSE

QB	10	Zac Champion (6-2, 202, Sr.)
RB	23	Patrick Jackson (5-10, 193, Jr.)
TE	47	Anthony Harrison (6-3, 242, Jr.)
LT	73	Tyler Miller (6-7, 314, Sr.)
LG	66	David Accardo (6-4, 318, Jr.)
C	60	Lon Roberts (6-3, 272, r-Fr.)
RG	78	Ryan Snell (6-5, 306, Jr.)
RT	63	Ryan Considine (6-6, 297, Gr.)
WR	19	Shane Womack (6-2, 208, Jr.)
WR	3	Brian Jackson (6-3, 216, So.)
WR	81	Josh Wheeler (6-4, 204, Jr.)

DEFENSE

DE	85	Randy Grigsby (6-3, 242, r-Fr.)
LT	5	D'Anthony Smith (6-2, 292, So.)
RT	92	Josh Muse (6-3, 315, Sr.)
RE	98	Ben McGilton (6-2, 245, Sr.)
SLB	45	Marquis McBeath (5-11, 228, Sr.)
MLB	58	Brannon Jackson (6-1, 256, Sr.)
WLB	37	Quin Harris (6-2, 221, Jr..)
LCB	1	Tony Moss (5-11, 185, Sr.)
RCB	35	Weldon Brown (5-10, 184, Jr.)
FS	34	Antonio Baker (5-11, 200, So.)
SS	29	Mark Dillard (5-11, 210, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	31	Danny Horwedel (6-0, 206, Sr.)
P	15	Chris Keagle (6-0, 233, Jr.)

UTAH STATE AGGIES

#8 PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Brent Guy
3rd Year (4-19)
Career Record: 4-19
Stadium: Romney Stadium
Tickets: 888-878-2831
Capacity: 25,513
Official athletic Web site:
www.utahstateaggies.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 1
2005 — 3
2004 — 3
2003 — 3
2002 — 4

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	UNLV	
S. 8	@WYOMING	7-38
S. 15	@OKLAHOMA	
S. 22	**San Jose State**	14-21
S. 29	@UTAH	0-48
O. 6	@HAWAII	10-63
O. 20	**Nevada**	0-42
O. 27	**Louisiana Tech**	35-48
N. 3	@FRESNO STATE	13-12
N. 10	**Boise State**	10-49
N. 17	@NEW MEXICO ST.	20-42
N. 24	@IDAHO	21-41

GAME TO WATCH

The young Aggies will find out quickly how much they have improved and can snap a six-game losing streak dating back to last season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **19**
Lettermen returning/lost: **37/11**

OFFENSE

QB	7	Leon Jackson (6-1, 204, Sr.)
TB	1	Aaron Lesue (5-10, 195, Sr.)
FB	32	Jacob Actkinson (6-0, 217, r-Fr.)
LT	78	Spencer Johnson (6-5, 273, r-Fr.)
LG	74	Shawn Murphy (6-5, 298, Sr.)
C	56	Ryan Tonnemacher (6-3, 278, Jr.)
RG	63	Pace Jorgensen (6-5, 336, Sr.)
RT	77	Derek Hoke (6-9, 310, Jr.)
TE	84	Will Fausel (6-3, 268, Sr.)
WR	6	Kevin Robinson (6-0, 192, Sr.)
WR	14	Otis Nelson (6-2, 204, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LE	13	Carl Singleton (6-2, 245, Sr.)
LT	57	Frank Maile (6-1, 265, Sr.)
RT	93	Ben Childs (5-11, 261, Sr.)
RE	58	Ben Calderwood (6-2, 268, Jr.)
SLB	31	Paul Igboeli (6-0, 206, So.)
MLB	53	Jake Hutton (6-0, 229, Jr.)
ABLE	45	Devon Hall (6-3, 216, Jr.)
LCB	9	Kejon Murphy (5-8, 157, So.)
RCB	3	Marquise Charles (5-8, 177, Jr.)
FS	24	Antonio Taylor (6-1, 214, Sr.)
SS	39	Caleb Taylor (6-3, 193, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Peter Caldwell (6-4, 213, Fr.)
P	7	Leon Jackson III (6-1, 204, Sr.)

When Coach Brent Guy arrived in Logan two seasons ago, he turned the program over to the kids. Now, after having 36 freshmen play during that stretch, the Aggies need a growth spurt.

Coming off a surprising three-win season in its WAC debut, Utah State took a huge step back last fall. Not only was it 1-11, but throw out a promising three-game midseason stretch against Fresno State (a 13-12 victory), San Jose State and Louisiana Tech, and the Aggies' average margin of defeat was almost 35 points.

But with 19 starters returning—including the entire defense—USU expects to be improved. Experience alone should benefit a defense that endured growing pains last season. The Aggies yielded at least 40 points seven times and were equally inept against the run and the pass. Opponents churned out nearly 2,300 rushing yards and picked apart the Aggie secondary for a conference-high 33 touchdowns.

The strength of the unit is at linebacker, headed by the WAC's 2006 Freshman of the Year, Paul Igboeli, and junior Jake Hutton, who missed most of his sophomore season because of injury. Defensive end Ben Calderwood was second-team All-WAC, but the Aggies need to put more pressure on opposing quarterbacks after collecting just 11 sacks last season.

Utah State will have a much different look on offense. After going through two offensive coordinators last year, former North Texas head coach Darrell Dickey was hired over the winter. He'll try to give an identity to a unit that scored the third-fewest points in the country last season (10.8 per game) and was shut out four times. There are big questions in the backfield. Leon Jackson will likely be USU's opening-day QB for the third season in a row, but he'll need to recapture his 2005 form to hold off juco transfer Sean Setzer.

IDAHO VANDALS

#9 PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Robb Akey
1st Year
Stadium: Kibbie Dome
Tickets: 208-885-6466
Capacity: 16,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.uiathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006 — 4
2005 — 2
2004 — 3
2003 — 3
2002 — 2

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@USC	
S. 8	**Cal Poly**	
S. 15	@WASHINGTON ST.	10-56
S. 22	**Northern Illinois**	
S. 29	**Hawaii**	10-68
O. 6	@SAN JOSE ST.	13-28
O. 13	**Fresno State**	0-34
O. 20	@NEW MEXICO ST.	28-20
O. 27	@NEVADA	7-45
N. 3	**Louisiana Tech**	24-14
N. 17	@BOISE STATE	26-42
N. 24	**Utah State**	41-21

GAME TO WATCH

New Vandals Coach Robb Akey was a Cougar assistant for eight seasons and beating Idaho's regional rival would endear him to the fan base.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **36/14**

OFFENSE

QB	10	Nathan Enderle (6-5, 223, r-Fr.)
RB	4	Brian Flowers (5-9, 190, Sr.)
LT	71	Billy Bates (6-5, 271, Jr.)
LG	77	Mike Iupati (6-6, 330, Jr.)
C	72	Adam Korby (6-2, 292, Jr.)
RG	62	Adam Juratovac (6-3, 297, So.)
RT	65	Kris Anderson (6-3, 299, Jr.)
TE	32	Rolly Lumbala (6-2, 241, Sr.)
WR	86	Lee Smith (6-0, 193, Jr.)
WR	7	Tracy Ford (5-8, 166, Jr.)
WR	22	Max Komar (5-10, 185, So.)

DEFENSE

DE	58	Ben Alexander (6-1, 224, Sr.)
DT	91	Siua Musika (6-1, 293, Sr.)
DT	98	Josh Shaw (6-2, 254, Jr.)
DE	90	Marcus Pedro (6-1, 270, Jr.)
OLB	5	Brandon Ogletree (6-3, 224, Sr.)
MLB	1	Jo Artis Ratti (6-1, 220, Sr.)
OLB	40	David Vobora (6-1, 240, Sr.)
CB	6	Stanley Franks (5-11, 167, Sr.)
CB		T.J. Taylor (5-11, 187, Jr.)
FS	10	Shiloh Keo (5-10, 175, So.)
SS	24	Lee Jones (6-2, 204, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	19	Tino Amancio (5-9, 215, Jr.)
P	14	T.J. Conley (6-3, 216, Jr.)

The Robb Akey Era at Idaho might finally produce something that this once-proud program desperately needs—stability. Akey is Idaho's third coach in three seasons and replaces Dennis Erickson, whose highly anticipated second tour in Moscow lasted 10 months.

Akey, a former Washington State assistant, inherits a program that won four games for the first time since 2000, but also faded badly. The Vandals lost their last five games by a combined score of 217-56.

With 16 starters back (nine on defense), this isn't a complete overhaul. But Akey brought in new coordinators on both sides of the ball, so there will be a learning curve.

The offense could use a clean slate. Last season, the Vandals were shut out twice, averaged 16.9 points per game and scored fewer than two touchdowns in six contests.

Quarterback will be the biggest issue for the Vandals. With two-year starter Steve Wichman gone, redshirt freshman Nathan Enderle enters the fall with a tentative grip on the No. 1 job.

He won't have the luxury of throwing to experienced receivers. Max Komar, who caught 17 passes as a freshman, is the only returning wideout with at least 10 receptions in 2006.

However, the Vandals return four starters on the offensive line and should have a solid running game. Brian Flowers, a senior, and Jayson Bird, a junior, combined to rush for 1,067 yards and 11 touchdowns last season.

The defense has ground to make up after ranking 115th in scoring defense. There are pieces in place for the defense to hold its own in the offense-heavy WAC. Senior linebacker David Vobora led the conference in unassisted tackles and is on the Lombardi Award watch list. The secondary is led by senior Stanley Franks, who tied for the most interceptions in the nation last year.

MOUNTAIN WEST

www.themwc.com

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1. TEXAS CHRISTIAN — P. 131 STOCK: UP
2. UTAH — P. 132 STOCK: UP
3. BRIGHAM YOUNG — P. 133 STOCK: DOWN
4. WYOMING — P. 134 STOCK: STEADY
5. NEW MEXICO — P. 134 STOCK: STEADY
6. COLORADO STATE — P. 135 STOCK: DOWN
7. AIR FORCE — P. 135 STOCK: DOWN
8. SAN DIEGO STATE — P. 136 STOCK: UP
9. UNLV — P. 136 STOCK: DOWN

Stellar defense may have Frogs hopping to BCS

By **STEVE CARP**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Is it possible the Mountain West is poised to return to the Bowl Championship Series?

After Utah made it to the Fiesta Bowl three years ago and Boise State was in Arizona last year, maybe TCU's defense is good enough to carry the Horned Frogs to the BCS.

Gary Patterson has nine starters back from a team that allowed just 12.3 points a game. Only Virginia Tech (11.0) and Wisconsin (12.1) surrendered fewer. The Horned Frogs can run the ball effectively enough to control the clock and put up points.

Whether or not they get to the BCS may depend on a lot of factors, but this much is certain: TCU is the team to beat in the MWC. With BYU and Utah having to play unproven people at quarterback, it's hard to imagine anyone seriously challenging the Horned Frogs for the top spot.

But the Mountain West has bowl tie-ins with five games, which means that a team with minimal success can find itself playing in mid-to-late December.

For the Cougars and Utes, they figure to be in that middle-to-lower-tier bowl mix. Same for Wyoming and New Mexico, both of which boast offensive talent and should win enough to keep their seasons going beyond November.

BYU settled on sophomore Max Hall in the spring to replace all-everything quarterback John Beck. And while Hall hasn't taken a snap in three years, he was good enough in high school to sign with Arizona State. Assuming Hall can shake off the rust quickly, he should keep the Cougars in contention.

At Utah, junior Brian Johnson has recovered from the knee surgery in 2005 that forced him to redshirt last year. He is ready to take over for the departed Brett Ratliff. Johnson has a strong arm and good wheels and is a dual threat for the Utes.

Wyoming, which was picked to finish last in 2006 and wound up in the middle of the pack at 6-6 to tie for third, won't be at the bottom this year. Not with 44 lettermen back and the momentum of having won five of its last seven games. Coach Joe Glenn continues to do an excellent job of keeping the Cowboys competitive and, with seven starters back on offense, Wyoming should get back into the bowl picture.

Rocky Long has done a good job of getting New Mexico into bowl games, having guided the Lobos to four postseason appearances in the last five years. Now, the goal is to win one of those bowls. With Dave Baldwin having been brought on board to be the offensive coordinator, perhaps this is the year that happens. Baldwin had been a successful head coach at San Jose State and this is a veteran team with 20 starters back.

There's only one new head-coaching face this year, as Air Force hired Troy Calhoun to replace Fisher DeBerry, who spent 23 years at the Academy before retiring following last year's 4-8 campaign. Calhoun will replace the option offense, a longtime staple at Air Force, with a multiple look. That more conventional scheme should make the Falcons a little easier to prepare for.

San Diego State is hoping to move up in Chuck Long's second year as coach after injuries ravaged the Aztecs on both sides of the ball in 2006.

Colorado State is looking to bounce back from a dismal 4-8 campaign and a 1-7 conference mark that saw the Rams tie for eighth place. However, longtime Coach Sonny Lubick has nine starters each back on offense and defense and quarterback Caleb Hanie completed 61.1 percent of his passes last year. He's better than people think.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Caleb Hanie, Sr., Colorado State	DL	Tommy Blake, Sr., TCU
RB	Rodney Ferguson, Jr., New Mexico	DL	Antwan Applewhite, Sr., San Diego State
RB	Aaron Brown, Jr., TCU	DL	Chase Ortiz, Sr., TCU
OL	Sete Aulai, Sr., BYU	DL	Jeremy Geathers, Jr., UNLV
OL	Matty Linder, Sr., TCU	LB	Drew Fowler, Sr., Air Force
OL	Jason Boone, Sr., Utah	LB	Jason Phillips, Jr., TCU
OL	Blake Schuleter, Jr., TCU	LB	Ward Dobbs, Jr., Wyoming
OL	Nick Allotta, Sr., Colorado State	DB	DeAndre Wright, Jr., New Mexico
WR	Travis Brown, Jr., New Mexico	DB	Quinn Gooch, Sr., BYU
WR	Ryan Wolfe, So., UNLV	DB	Brian Bonner, Sr., TCU
TE	Kory Sperry, Sr., Colorado State	DB	Bobby Giannini, Sr., Air Force
PK	Chris Manfredini, Sr., TCU	P	Jimmie Kaylor, Sr., Colorado State

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. Max Hall will be better than BYU fans think. The sophomore earned the starting QB job out of spring practice and, while he won't put up John Beck numbers, Hall will keep the Cougar offense moving. He was at Arizona State before transferring, so he's had plenty of time to prepare.

2. Good luck trying to score against the TCU defense. With nine starters back from a team that was second in the nation in rushing defense and surrendered just 12.3 points a game, the Horned Frogs are in prime position to finish atop the Mountain West standings.

3. As quickly as Troy Calhoun would like to improve Air Force in the standings, the first-year coach may find it slow going thanks to an early-season schedule that includes games at Utah, at home against TCU, at BYU and at Navy. Also, the Falcons don't have a bye this year, compounding Calhoun's problems in his attempt to turn things around.

4. Mike Sanford's future at UNLV may be tied at the hip of talented but oft-injured quarterback Rocky Hinds. Sanford is under some heat to turn things around after going 4-19 in his first two years. Hinds has run hot-and-cold when he's managed to stay on the field with his wobbly knees. If the Rebels can't make progress, the haters will be out in force, especially given the basketball team's turnaround under Lon Kruger and run to the Sweet 16.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Derrek Richards, Utah

BEST HANDS
Ryan Wolfe, WR, UNLV

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Caleb Hanie, Colorado State

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Shaun Carney, Air Force

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Rodney Ferguson, New Mexico

BEST INSTINCTS
Aaron Brown, RB, TCU

BEST ATHLETE
DeAndre Wright, CB, New Mexico

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Louie Sakoda, PK, Utah

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Tommy Blake, DE, TCU

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Garrett Reden, LT, BYU

HARDEST HITTER
Kyle Brady, LB, Utah

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Rocky Hinds, QB, UNLV

TOP 25 SELECTION

TEXAS CHRISTIAN HORNED FROGS

2006 Record: 11-2 » **Mountain West: 6-2** *(beat Northern Illinois in the Poinsettia Bowl, 37-7)*

Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium (44,008) **Tickets:** 817-257-FROG **Fort Worth**

 # 1
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Gary Patterson**
7th Year (54-20) Career Record: 54-20

Official athletic Web site: www.gofrogs.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Baylor**	17-7
S.8	» **@TEXAS**	
S. 13	@AIR FORCE	38-14
S. 22	**Southern Methodist**	
S. 29	**Colorado State**	45-14
O. 6	@WYOMING	26-3
O. 13	@STANFORD	
O. 18	**Utah**	7-20
N. 3	**New Mexico**	27-21
N. 8	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	17-31
N. 17	**UNLV**	25-10
N. 24	@SAN DIEGO STATE	52-0

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

The Horned Frogs could be on a real roll when they come knocking on Mack Brown's door. Will momentum and a stifling defense suffice for a win—or will there be more Poinsettias in December?

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	11	CT, B
2005	11	CT, B, NT
2004	5	
2003	11	CT, B
2002	10	CT, B, NT

CT CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL NT NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **48/23**

» OFFENSE

QB	11	Marcus Jackson (6-1, 216, So.)
TB	23	Aaron Brown (6-1, 196, Jr.)
FB	47	William Jackson (6-0, 235, Sr.)
LT	71	Wade Sisk (6-7, 271, Sr.)
LG	64	Matty Lindner (6-4, 298, Sr.)
C	75	Blake Schlueter (6-3, 272, Jr.)
RG	65	Giles Montgomery (6-5, 295, Jr.)
RT	70	Marshall Newhouse (6-3, 317, So.)
TE	86	Shae Reagan (6-4, 261, Jr.)
WR	21	Ervin Dickerson (6-1, 200, Sr.)
WR	2	Donald Massey (5-11, 172, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	93	Chase Ortiz (6-3, 255, Sr.)
NT	56	Cody Moore (6-1, 292, Jr.)
DT	55	James Vess (6-3, 282, Jr.)
RE	97	Tommy Blake (6-3, 252, Sr.)
SLB	46	David Hawthorne (6-0, 225, Sr.)
MLB	39	Jason Phillips (6-1, 234, Jr.)
WS	27	David Roach (6-2, 215, Sr.)
LCB	20	Nick Sanders (5-10, 174, So.)
RCB	15	Torrey Stewart (5-11, 175, Sr.)
FS	4	Steven Coleman (6-3, 204, Jr.)
SS	6	Brian Bonner (5-11, 199, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	44	Chris Manfredini (5-9, 165, Sr.)
P	11	Derek Wash (6-4, 177, Sr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

Poinsettias nice, but loaded Frogs seek better bowl trip

Momentum and motivation won't be an issue for the Horned Frogs this year. Not after finishing 2006 with eight straight wins and not after coming up short in their quest to win the Mountain West title.

TCU went 6-2, which was good enough for second place. But that's not good enough for Coach Gary Patterson. The two losses, which came back-to-back to BYU and Utah in late September and early October, prevented TCU from even thinking about a BCS bowl game.

Instead, the Horned Frogs whipped up on Northern Illinois 37-7 in the Poinsettia Bowl.

However, with nine defensive starters back from a team that allowed just 12.3 points and 60.8 rushing yards a game, TCU is going to be in just about every game it plays. Which means whoever replaces Jeff Ballard at quarterback will have some of the pressure lifted from his shoulders.

With defensive ends Tommy Blake and Chase Ortiz and tackle James Vess as the anchors of the defensive line returning, TCU is formidable up front. Blake, a two-time first-team All-Mountain West selection, led the league in tackles for loss last year with 16.5 and led the league in sacks with seven. Ortiz had 11 tackles for loss and is the perfect complement to Blake. Teams can't double both of them. Nor can they forget about Vess, who started the final eight games at defensive tackle. He was a two-time MWC Defensive Player of the Week last season.

Their play makes life easier for the linebackers and secondary. But Jason Phillips, a two-time all-conference linebacker, has started 25 games in the middle and is the team's leading tackler with 73 stops. David Hawthorne doesn't get as much attention as some of his teammates, but the senior linebacker is solid and had 43 tackles, including six for losses. Junior Robert Henson has also been a force, coming off the bench to lend support, and he has been an honorable mention all-league pick his first two years.

Because opposing quarterbacks struggle to avoid the pressure from TCU's front eight, the Frogs' three-safety alignment gets to play in more of a support role than most groups. Brian Bonner and David Roach are back at two of those spots, while Steven Coleman, Stephen Hodge and Corderra Hunter will be competing for the chance to replace all-league safety Marvin White.

But when it comes to replacements, it's about who will take Ballard's place. Will it be sophomore Marcus Jackson, who has some experience and helped TCU beat Baylor last year? Or will it be redshirt freshman Andy Dalton, who was a big-time player in high school but has never taken a snap at this level?

Whoever gets the job will spend a lot of his time handing the ball off to Aaron Brown, the junior tailback who rushed for 801 yards, scored nine touchdowns and also had 34 receptions for 455 yards last season. His all-purpose game will not only aid whoever is the quarterback, it'll help chew minutes off the clock and keep TCU's defense on the sideline.

Of course, opposing teams will try to keep Brown in check. That could open up the passing game for Donald Massey, who had three touchdown catches in last year's 52-0 rout of San Diego State and 25 total receptions in 2006. Ervin Dickerson and Walter Bryant combined for 22 catches a year ago as reserves. That wideout group, along with tight ends Shae Reagan and Quinton Cunigan, should provide whoever is taking the snaps with enough good targets when Brown is shadowed too closely.

TCU has six offensive starters back, three on the line. Guard Matty Lindner, center Blake Schlueter and tackle Wade Sisk were part of a unit that allowed just 15 sacks a year ago. They'll be leaned on heavily to protect the new quarterback.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **SHAE REAGAN, TE**

Converted QB has a chance to start at TE and, at 6-4 and 261 pounds, the junior should be an inviting target for whoever replaces Jeff Ballard at QB.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Tekerrien Cuba, DB, 6-3, 200**
Safety tops touted secondary recruits.
2. **Jeremy Kerley, WR, 5-10, 185**
Four-sport prep star is a versatile gridder.
3. **Braylon Broughton, DE, 6-6, 225**
Rangy defender has big-time upside.
4. **Chris Goodson, DB, 6-0, 210**
Junior-college transfer could play early.
5. **Jai Cavness, RB, 5-8, 175**
Cousin of Hall-of-Fame RB Thurman Thomas.

#2 PRESEASON RANK » UTAH UTES

2006 Record: 8-5 » Mountain West: 5-3 *(beat Tulsa in the Armed Forces Bowl, 25-13)*

Salt Lake City **Stadium:** Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017) **Tickets:** 801-581-8849

Despite recent bowl wins, Ute Nation getting restless

In his two years as coach, Kyle Whittingham has gone to two bowl games and won them both.

So why are so many Utah fans down on him?

Apparently, the 10 losses he has accrued, which include a pair to archrival Brigham Young, have not sat well with the Ute Nation.

But perhaps this is the year Whittingham can make everyone happy. Despite a tough non-conference schedule that includes road games with Oregon State and Louisville and a home contest against UCLA, Utah has 17 starters returning from last year's 8-5 Armed Forces Bowl championship team, 10 of them on offense.

If Utah can go 3-1 in non-conference play (Utah State is the fourth non-league team on the schedule) and get off to a fast start in the Mountain West when it hosts Air Force in the Sept. 8 league opener, it could give the team a huge confidence boost as well as momentum for the challenges that lie ahead at TCU and BYU.

But here's the big question: Can Brian Johnson regain the form that made him one of the league's top quarterbacks in 2005? Johnson sat out last season after undergoing knee surgery, but he looked good in spring drills and Whittingham is ready to hand him back the keys to the offense before it runs out of gas.

Johnson threw for 2,892 yards and 18 touchdowns as a sophomore and completed 63.6 percent of his passes. He also can beat you with his legs, having rushed for 478 yards in 2005. If he gets his timing and confidence back, Johnson can take Utah a long way.

There are plenty of weapons for Johnson to work with. The top six receivers from last year are back, including Derrek Richards and Brent Casteel. Richards had 60 catches and six touchdowns last year, while Casteel hauled in 39 passes for 600 yards and 10 TDs. Brian Hernandez had 47 receptions last year, second to Richards, and Marquis Wilson has the speed to get separation. Freddie Brown, a 6-3 junior, will be a nice secondary target underneath if the flanks are covered.

Utah's big concern is at running back. Darryl Poston was the team's leading rusher in 2006 and he averaged less than four yards a carry. There's no true breakaway threat in the backfield.

It also means Utah's offensive line will need to focus more on pass protection than run blocking.

Right guard Robert Conley and right tackle Jason Boone were honorable mention all-conference in 2006 and will be the anchors for a line that includes rising sophomore star Zane Beadles and senior Kyle Gunther. If Jeremy Inferrera can replace all-conference tackle Tavo Tupola, the Utes should be in good shape. This is a huge line in terms of size. Utah's front five averages 6-4 and 306 pounds.

The Utes scored just under 28 points per game last year. If they can match that output and keep their defense off the field, they figure to be in most of their games. Their 4-3 defense did a good job against the run in 2006, allowing just 106 yards a game. But the secondary got torched and allowed 215 yards through the air—even with all-conference safety Eric Weddle in the mix.

Middle linebacker Joe Jianonni is the lone all-conference defensive player returning, so his teammates will look to the 6-foot senior for leadership.

In Louie Sakoda, Utah has the Mountain West's co-Special Teams Player of the Year returning. The junior punter/placekicker has averaged 42.5 yards during his first two years at Utah and has booted 15 punts of 50 or more yards. He added placekicking duties last season and was the MVP of the Armed Forces Bowl after making all four of his field-goal attempts and averaging 47.3 yards for three punts.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» JOE DALE, SS

The Utes are overhauling their secondary after losing three starters to graduation. Dale, a 5-11 sophomore, could replace Casey Evans at strong safety. In nine games as a freshman, he registered six tackles.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Griff Robles, QB, 6-5, 220** *Will serve church mission before enrolling.*
2. **Matt Asiata, RB, 6-0, 235** *Junior College All-American could play now.*
3. **Josh Broughton, DB, 5-11, 185** *Junior-college cornerback has considerable skills.*
4. **Damilyn Tanner, DB, 5-10, 175** *Touted transfer may contribute in 2007.*
5. **Dallin Rogers, TE, 6-4, 210** *Californian was two-sport prep star.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	3

» Head Coach: Kyle Whittingham
3rd Year (15-10) Career Record: 15-10

Official athletic Web site: www.utahutes.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	@OREGON STATE	
S. 8	**Air Force**	17-14
S. 15	**UCLA**	10-31
S. 22	@UNLV	45-23
S. 29	**Utah State**	48-0
O. 5	@LOUISVILLE	
O. 13	**San Diego State**	38-7
O. 18	@TCU	20-7
O. 27	@COLORADO STATE	35-22
N. 10	**Wyoming**	15-31
N. 17	**New Mexico**	31-34
N.24	**» @BRIGHAM YOUNG**	31-33

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Utah faithful won't rest easy until BYU is beaten. The Utes look to have the edge this year, and conference-title implications could add to the dramatics.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8	
2005	7	
2004	12	
2003	10	
2002	5	

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **47/16**

» OFFENSE

QB	3	Brian Johnson (6-1, 210, Jr.)
RB	9	Darryl Poston (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	70	Jeremy Inferrera (6-3, 296, Sr.)
LG	68	Zane Beadles (6-4, 312, So.)
C	63	Kyle Gunther (6-4, 304, Sr.)
RG	66	Robert Conley (6-1, 316, Jr.)
RT	68	Jason Boone (6-4, 300, Sr.)
TE	48	Matt Sims (6-1, 251, Sr.)
WR	26	Derrek Richards (5-11, 175, Sr.)
WR	5	Brent Casteel (5-10, 193, Jr.)
WR	16	Brian Hernandez (6-0, 183, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	93	Martail Burnett (6-3, 262, Sr.)
NG	94	Gabe Long (6-3, 290, Sr.)
DT	92	Kenape Eliapo (6-0, 303, So.)
DE	56	Greg Newman (6-4, 260, Jr.)
ROV	10	Stevenson Sylvester (6-2, 210, So.)
MLB	44	Joe Jianonni (6-0, 235, Sr.)
STUD	22	Malakai Mokofisi (6-2, 243, Sr.)
LCB	1	Brice McCain (5-9, 189, Jr.)
RCB	4	Sean Smith (6-3, 217, So.)
FS	28	Steve Tate (5-11, 195, Sr.)
SS	43	Joe Dale (5-11, 197, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	35	Louie Sakoda (5-10, 178, Jr.)
P	35	Louie Sakoda (5-10, 178, Jr.)

BRIGHAM YOUNG COUGARS

2006 Record: 11-2 » Mountain West: 8-0 *(beat Oregon in the Las Vegas Bowl, 38-8)*

Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (64,045) **Tickets:** 800-322-BYU1 **Provo, Utah**

 # 3
PRESEASON RANK

» Head Coach: Bronco Mendenhall
3rd Year (17-8) Career Record: 17-8

Official athletic Web site: www.byucougars.com

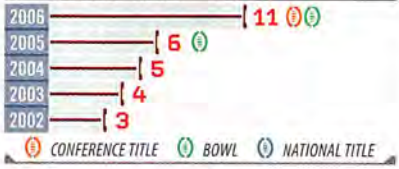
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Arizona**	13-16
S. 8	@UCLA	
S. 15	@TULSA	49-24
S. 22	**Air Force**	33-14
S. 29	@NEW MEXICO	42-17
O. 13	@UNLV	52-7
O. 20	**Eastern Washington**	
O. 27	@SAN DIEGO STATE	47-17
N. 3	**Colorado State**	24-3
N. 8	**» @TCU**	31-17
N. 17	@WYOMING	55-7
N. 24	**Utah**	33-31

»» GAME TO WATCH ««

If the Cougars think they can come close to matching last year's success, protecting their conference crown is the place to start. It won't be easy.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **13**
Lettermen returning/lost: **44/28**

» OFFENSE

QB	15	Max Hall (6-1, 200, So.)
RB	11	Manase Tonga (6-0, 234, Jr.)
HB	1	Fui Vakapuna (6-1, 234, Jr.)
LT	64	R.J. Willing (6-5, 300, So.)
LG	76	Ray Feinga (6-5, 322, Jr.)
C	67	Sete Aulai (6-1, 297, Sr.)
RG	74	Travis Bright (6-5, 314, Jr.)
RT	68	David Oswald (6-8, 325, Jr.)
TE	32	Dennis Pitta (6-5, 230, So.)
WR	3	Michael Reed (6-1, 202, Jr.)
WR	10	Matt Allen (6-0, 177, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	77	Ian Dulan (6-1, 274, So.)
NT	52	Russell Tialavea (6-3, 300, So.)
RE	84	Jan Jorgensen (6-3, 260, So.)
OLB	41	Bryan Kehl (6-3, 231, Sr.)
ILB	46	Kelly Poppinga (6-2, 240, Sr.)
ILB	42	Shawn Doman (6-2, 219, So.)
OLB	43	David Nixon (6-3, 223, Jr.)
CB	34	Kayle Buchanan (6-1, 191, Sr.)
CB	21	Ben Criddle (6-0, 185, Sr.)
FS	25	Quinn Gooch (6-0, 196, Sr.)
SS	28	Dustin Gabriel (6-1, 213, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Mitch Payne (6-2, 201, r-Fr.)
P	38	Mitch Payne (6-2, 201, r-Fr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	4

Bronco driving Cougars to excel, and things shouldn't slow much in '07

For BYU's loyal but demanding fans, this was more like it—a conference championship, an undefeated league season and a convincing bowl victory over the Pac-10.

So, Bronco Mendenhall, what do you do for an encore?

You start by lowering expectations, hard as that may be. Your star quarterback is in the NFL, as the Miami Dolphins took John Beck in the second round of April's draft. You only have 13 starters returning and your team has a bigger-than-usual target on its back because of last year's success that saw the Cougars go 11-2 overall, 8-0 in the Mountain West and thoroughly dismantle Oregon 38-8 in the Las Vegas Bowl.

At BYU, it always seems to be about the QB, so when Mendenhall announced at the end of spring drills that sophomore Max Hall had won the job over junior Cade Cooper, more than one eyebrow was raised throughout Provo. But Hall is not your ordinary sophomore. The 6-1 gunslinger originally signed to play at Arizona State and redshirted his freshman year in 2004 before transferring to BYU and going on his church mission in 2005. He has a strong arm and a pretty good pedigree—his uncle is former Dallas Cowboys QB Danny White.

The challenge Hall faces is that the last football game he played that counted at any level was 2003, when he was a senior in high school. It will be four years between snaps when he finally takes the ball Sept. 1 against Arizona. Can he shake off the accumulated rust? Can he use his age (21 when the season starts) to speed up the maturation process?

Beck isn't the only star BYU has to replace. All-league tight end Jonny Harline and running back Curtis Brown were responsible for 2,799 all-purpose yards in 2006 and, when you include Beck's 3,877 yards of total offense, that's a lot of making up to do.

Manase Tonga and Wayne Latu will be thrown into the fire right away, and Matt Allen, a 6-foot junior, returns as BYU's most experienced receiver, recording 27 catches and three touchdowns a year ago.

There's some experience up front to help protect Hall and give him time so he and his receivers can get on the same page. Center Sete Aulai may be the most important person on the field when BYU has the ball. The 297-pound senior was a second-team all-conference selection last year and his experience and leadership will be critical to the offense's success.

Guards Ray Feigna and Travis Bright are 322 and 314 pounds, respectively. They also have good quickness to go along with their size, which should help Offensive Coordinator Robert Anae come up with a few creative options for Hall.

Defensively, the Cougars want to build on their impressive Las Vegas Bowl showing that saw them shut down Oregon's high-powered offense. Brigham Young was second to TCU in the conference for scoring defense in 2006, as the Cougars allowed just 14.7 points a game. And while BYU didn't have any single dominating player, the Cougars were an impressive unit collectively.

Seven returning starters, led by inside linebackers Kelly Poppinga and Shawn Doman, will make a lot of plays, as will outside men David Nixon and Bryan Kehl.

Mendenhall switched from a 3-3-5 to a 3-4 last season to take advantage of his depth at linebacker, and look for more of the same in 2007. Backing up the linebackers are safeties Quinn Gooch and Dustin Gabriel. Gooch was a second team All-Mountain West honoree and led all defensive backs with 68 tackles. Gabriel had 37 tackles and an interception return for a touchdown in BYU's 47-17 win over San Diego State.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» AUSTIN COLLIE, WR

It seems like a long time ago that Collie was the MWC's Freshman of the Year after catching 8 TD passes in 2004. But he's back after a church mission and could be a favorite target.

RATING THE RECRUITS

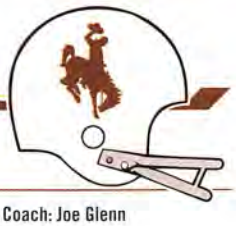
1. **Jordan Pendleton, DB, 6-2, 195**
   Top in-state prep athlete has promise.
2. **J.J. Di Luigi, RB, 5-9, 190**
   Californian led team to state title.
3. **Jason Munns, QB, 6-5, 225**
   Highly recruited Washington athlete.
4. **Levi Mack, OL, 6-5, 315**
   Junior-college transfer who's back after a church mission.
5. **Manaaki Vaital, OL, 6-3, 300**
   Texas standout could contribute now.

Laramie » 2006 Record: 6-6 » Mountain West: 5-3

LOWER-TIER BOWL

#4 » WYOMING COWBOYS

PRESEASON RANK



Joe Glenn continues to prove the doubters wrong.

Picked to finish last in 2006, the Cowboys tied for third with Utah at 5-3 and went 6-6 overall while playing a very tough non-conference schedule that included Boise State, Virginia and Syracuse. In fact, Wyoming was 1-4 after that opening stretch that saw it lose in overtime to the Cavaliers and the Orange.

But after going 5-2 the rest of the way to finish .500, Glenn and his program are ready to take the next step and return to the postseason and play in a bowl game.

"It's time for us to take another step forward," Glenn says. "We made progress last year, but we're setting our sights higher this year."

Unlike last season, there's experience at quarterback, as sophomore Karsten Sween is evolving into a pretty good player. Also, with Wyoming's top two running backs returning and four of the team's top five receivers back, Glenn should be able to open up the offense a little more.

Junior running back Wynel Seldon was seventh in the league in rushing last year and senior receiver Hoost Marsh had 23 receptions and three touchdowns. Junior center Tim Bond and junior tackle Kyle Howard will oversee the protection for Sween, who averaged 145 yards a game through the air his freshman season.

Defensively, Wyoming has an athletic secondary and talent at linebacker. All-conference performer Ward Dobbs led the team with 69 tackles from his inside-linebacker position and fellow linebackers Sean Claffey and Luke Chase give the Cowboys dependable people in those spots. Quincy Rogers had four pass breakups at safety last year and, along with senior cornerbacks Julius Stinson and Michael Medina, Wyoming has a nice core of physical, athletic defensive backs.

Head Coach: Joe Glenn
5th Year (21-26)
Career Record: 21-26 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium
Tickets: 800-922-9461
Capacity: 32,580
Official athletic Web site: www.wyomingathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6
2005	4
2004	7 (C)
2003	4
2002	2

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Virginia**	12-13 (OT)
S. 8	**Utah State**	38-7
S. 15	@BOISE STATE	10-17
S. 22	@OHIO	
O. 6	**TCU**	3-26
O. 13	**New Mexico**	14-10
O. 20	@AIR FORCE	24-31
O. 27	**UNLV**	34-26
N. 3	@SAN DIEGO ST.	27-24
N. 10	**@UTAH**	**31-15**
N. 17	**Brigham Young**	7-55
N. 23	@COLORADO ST.	24-0

» GAME TO WATCH «

Are the Cowboys a serious contender in the MWC? They tied the Utes for third last year, and a victory here could put them in the mix.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **45/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	16	Karsten Sween (6-2, 204, So.)
RB	31	Wynel Seldon (6-0, 208, Jr.)
LT	71	Ryan Otterson (6-5, 281, So.)
LG	75	Sam Sterner (6-4, 288, r-Fr.)
C	74	Tim Bond (6-4, 296, Jr.)
RG	57	Jack Tennant (6-4, 304, r-Fr.)
RT	76	Kyle Howard (6-7, 312, Jr.)
TE	46	Wade Betschart (6-3, 250, Sr.)
WR	8	Michael Ford (6-2, 203, Sr.)
WR	84	Greg Bolling (6-2, 180, So.)
WR	6	Hoost Marsh (5-9, 172, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	98	Mitch Unrein (6-4, 257, So.)
NG	90	Fred Givens (6-0, 310, So.)
DT	91	John Fletcher (6-6, 274, So.)
OLB	34	Sean Claffey (6-3, 227, Sr.)
ILB	53	Luke Chase (6-1, 240, Sr.)
ILB	29	Ward Dobbs (6-0, 229, Jr.)
OLB	55	Mike Juergens (6-4, 235, Jr.)
CB	20	Julius Stinson (5-10, 182, Sr.)
CB	28	Michael Medina (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS	1	Quincy Rogers (6-1, 207, Jr.)
SS	27	Michael Ray (6-1, 206, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Aric Goodman (5-11, 178, So.)
P	25	Billy Vinnedge (6-1, 196, Sr.)

Albuquerque 2006 Record: 6-7 Mountain West: 4-4

(lost to San Jose State in the New Mexico Bowl, 20-12)

LOWER-TIER BOWL

#5 » NEW MEXICO LOBOS

PRESEASON RANK

There was a time, not that long ago, when using the words "bowl game" with New Mexico in the same sentence would create puzzled looks. But since Rocky Long came to Albuquerque as coach in 1997, the program has experienced the postseason four times.

The fans are appreciative of Long's efforts, given the team had gone to exactly two bowl games from 1965 to 1999. However, they have one small request of their coach: "Hey, could you maybe win one of those bowl games?"

A 6-7 season was marred by a 20-12 loss to San Jose State in the inaugural New Mexico Bowl, giving Long an 0-4 mark in postseason with the Lobos. But with 18 returning starters, 10 on defense, perhaps this is the year New Mexico ends a season on a positive note.

With veteran linebackers Cody Kase, Major Mosley and George Carter back along with defensive ends Michael Tuohy and Tyler Donaldson, plus the entire secondary of safeties Tyson Ditmore and OJ Swift and corners Glover Quin and DeAndre Wright, the Lobos have more experience than anyone in the league on defense.

They'll need to impose their will on opposing offenses and try and give sophomore quarterback Donovan Porterie and his mates good field position to make something happen. Porterie's job is to get the ball to standout wide receiver Travis Brown and let him do his thing. The 6-3 senior was a first-team all-conference selection in 2006 after having a breakout season with 64 receptions for 867 yards and four touchdowns.

And if Brown is covered, Porterie will give the ball to junior tailback Rodney Ferguson, another first-team, All-Mountain West pick. Ferguson also had a big-time year, carrying the ball 252 times for 1,234 yards. He scored seven touchdowns and averaged 4.9 yards a carry.

Head Coach: Rocky Long
10th Year (52-57)
Career Record: 52-57
Stadium: University Stadium
Tickets: 505-925-5626
Capacity: 38,634
Official athletic Web site: www.golobos.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6 (B)
2005	6
2004	7 (C)
2003	8 (C)
2002	7 (B)

(C) Conference Title (B) Bowl (N) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@UTEP	26-13
S. 8	**New Mexico State**	34-28
S. 15	@ARIZONA	
S. 22	**Sacramento State**	
S. 29	**Brigham Young**	17-42
O. 13	@WYOMING	10-14
O. 20	@SAN DIEGO ST.	41-14
O. 25	**Air Force**	7-24
N. 3	**@TCU**	**21-27**
N. 10	**Colorado State**	20-19
N. 17	@UTAH	34-31
N. 24	**UNLV**	39-36 (OT)

» GAME TO WATCH «

After coming within a red-zone pick of the Horned Frogs last season, the Lobos can make a statement, and their defense will get a real test.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **18**
Lettermen returning/lost: **43/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	15	Donovan Porterie (6-4, 200, So.)
FB	95	Josh Fussell (6-4, 200, r-Fr.)
TB	21	Rodney Ferguson (6-0, 226, Jr.)
LT	71	Josh Waller (6-5, 275, So.)
LG	75	Anthony Kilby (6-4, 331, Sr.)
C	69	Erik Cook (6-5, 307, So.)
RG	77	Bart Miller (6-4, 296, Sr.)
RT	70	Devin Clark (6-4, 320, Sr.)
TE	85	Chris Mark (6-5, 256, Jr.)
WR	81	Travis Brown (6-3, 189, Sr.)
WR	4	Marcus Smith (6-2, 212, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	41	Michael Tuohy (6-2, 249, Sr.)
NT	92	Wesley Beck (6-0, 264, Jr.)
RE	55	Tyler Donaldson (6-4, 237, Sr.)
LLB	38	Major Mosley (6-3, 220, Sr.)
MLB	47	Cody Kase (6-2, 212, Sr.)
RLB	46	George Carter (6-3, 228, Sr.)
LCB	30	Ian Clark (6-0, 198, So.)
LCB	19	Glover Quin (5-11, 194, Jr.)
RCB	2	DeAndre Wright (6-0, 183, Jr.)
FS	9	Tyson Ditmore (6-1, 201, Sr.)
SS	34	OJ Swift (5-9, 183, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	86	Eric Garrison (6-1, 192, Sr.)
P	39	Jordan Scott (6-0, 183, Sr.)

COLORADO STATE RAMS « # 6

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Sonny Lubick
15th Year (105-65)
Career Record: 105-65 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium
Tickets: 800-491-RAMS
Capacity: 34,400
Official athletic Web site:
www.csurams.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4
2005	6 (B)
2004	4
2003	7 (B)
2002	10 (B)(B)

(B) Conference Title (B) Bowl (B) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@COLORADO*	14-10
S. 8	**California**	
S. 22	@HOUSTON	
S. 29	@TCU	14-45
O. 6	**San Diego State**	6-17
O. 13	**Air Force**	21-24
O. 20	@UNLV	28-7
O. 27	**Utah**	22-35
N. 3	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	3-24
N. 10	@NEW MEXICO	19-20
N. 17	**Georgia Southern**	
N. 23	**Wyoming**	0-24

» GAME TO WATCH «

Rams are on a 7-game skid. A big win over their rivals would help erase very bad memories.

** at Denver, CO*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **20**
Lettermen returning/lost: **47/11**

» OFFENSE

QB	16	Caleb Hanie (6-2, 236, Sr.)
RB	34	Kyle Bell (6-2, 232, r-Jr.)
HB	80	Kory Sperry (6-6, 260, Sr.)
LT	53	Cole Pemberton (6-7, 318, So.)
LG	55	Scott Benedict (6-4, 294, So.)
C	64	Nick Allotta (6-3, 305, Sr.)
RG	60	Adrian Martinez (6-4, 300, So.)
RT	75	Dane Stratton (6-5, 298, Jr.)
TE	88	Chris Kawulok (6-3, 244, Jr.)
SE	7	Johnny Walker (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FL	82	Luke Roberts (6-2, 206, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

LE	93	Wade Landers (6-6, 252, Jr.)
NG	95	Erik Sandie (6-2, 289, Sr.)
DT	97	Blake Smith (6-2, 257, Sr.)
RE	59	Jesse Nading (6-5, 263, Sr.)
SLB	34	Sedric Patterson (6-1, 231, So.)
MLB	51	Jeff Horinek (6-3, 238, Jr.)
WLB	42	Jake Pottorff (6-4, 244, So.)
LCB	29	Joey Rucks (5-10, 190, Sr.)
RCB	39	Darryl Williams (5-9,180, Sr.)
FS	20	Klint Kubiak (6-0, 201, Jr.)
SS	13	Mike Pagnotta (6-0, 203, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Jason Smith (6-2, 201, Jr.)
P	8	Jimmie Kaylor (6-3, 197, Sr.)

Last place is not somewhere Sonny Lubick is used to being, but seven straight losses to end the season earned the Rams a share of the cellar with UNLV at 1-7. In fact, Lubick, who is preparing for his 15th season at CSU, has not had a winning record in four years and hasn't won the conference title since 2002.

First place may not be realistic for Colorado State at the moment. But the Rams should be better than last year's 4-8. First, last season's youngsters gained some valuable experience and, with 20 starters returning, Lubick has the most experience at his disposal since he took over the program in 1993.

Senior quarterback Caleb Hanie threw for 2,427 yards last year, but he was also intercepted 12 times and had only 11 touchdowns. Those numbers have to change.

Perhaps if running back Kyle Bell returns to his 2005 form, that will take some of the pressure off Hanie. Bell rushed for 1,288 yards and scored 10 touchdowns two years ago. He redshirted last year after undergoing knee surgery. But he is ready to go and that's a good sign.

Colorado State didn't have a single all-conference player on defense. That's not a good sign. But maybe junior free safety Klint Kubiak, the team's leading tackler a year ago with 90, and senior cornerback Darryl Williams, who had three interceptions, will help change that.

In that seven-game losing streak to conclude 2006, Colorado State allowed 27 points and a whopping 397.3 yards per game.

Another bad sign: Jimmie Kaylor had to punt 65 times last year and was third in the Mountain West with a 43.7-yard average. If he can stay off the field a little more, that can only help the Rams' cause.

AIR FORCE FALCONS « # 7

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Troy Calhoun
1st Year
Stadium: Falcon Stadium
Tickets: 800-666-USAF
Capacity: 46,692
Official athletic Web site:
www.goairforcefalcons.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	4
2005	4
2004	5
2003	7
2002	8 (B)

(B) Conference Title (B) Bowl (B) National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**South Carolina St.**	
S. 8	@UTAH	14-17
S. 13	**TCU**	14-38
S. 22	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-33
S. 29	NAVY	17-24
O. 6	**UNLV**	39-42
O. 13	@COLORADO ST.	24-21
O. 20	**Wyoming**	31-24
O. 25	@NEW MEXICO	24-7
N. 3	**Army**	43-7
N. 10	@NOTRE DAME	17-39
N. 17	**San Diego State**	12-19

» GAME TO WATCH «

If Troy Calhoun wants to show that change is in the air, a win here would do the trick. The Falcons have dropped four straight close ones to their Defense Department counterparts.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **10**
Lettermen returning/lost: **50/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	5	Shaun Carney (5-10, 190, Sr.)
FB	21	Ryan Williams (5-9, 215, Sr.)
TB	1	Chad Hall (5-8, 180, Sr.)
LT	73	Dan Holder (6-6, 280, Sr.)
LG	57	Nicholas Charles (6-4, 280, So.)
C	64	Blaine Guenther (6-2, 270, Sr.)
RG	69	Caleb Morris (6-2, 275, Sr.)
RT	70	Ryan Zeman (6-4, 265, Sr.)
TE	88	Travis Dekker (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WR	7	Mark Root (6-2, 195, Jr.)
WR	19	Ty Paffett (5-11, 180, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	95	Jake Paulson (6-5, 260, Jr.)
NG	79	Keith Williams ((6-6, 255, Jr.)
DE	91	Ryan Kemp (6-5, 235, Jr.)
OLB	9	John Rabold (6-4, 220, Sr.)
ILB	48	Brandon Reeves (6-2, 225, Jr.)
ILB	52	Austin Randle (6-0, 230, Sr.)
OLB	4	Julian Madrid (6-0, 205, Sr.)
CB	6	Kevin Rivers (6-0, 190, Jr.)
CB	39	Garrett Rybak (5-11, 175, Sr.)
FS	11	Bobby Giannini (6-2, 210, Jr.)
SS	34	Chris Thomas (5-11, 198, So.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Ryan Harrison (6-1, 175, Jr.)
P	13	Ryan Harrison (6-1, 175, Jr.)

After 23 years of Fisher DeBerry's option offense and sometimes-bizarre quotes, it was time for a change at the Air Force Academy. Of course, a 4-8 overall record, 3-5 league mark and a four-game losing streak to end the season help facilitate such moves.

Now it is Troy Calhoun's time.

The 1989 alumnus has been coaching in the NFL the last four years. Now, Calhoun will attempt to retool the long-standing triple-option scheme with a multiple look. It won't be easy, even though the Falcons have an experienced quarterback in Shaun Carney. At only 5-10, it's hard to imagine Calhoun turning Carney into a pocket passer who sits there, reads the defense and lets it fly. The guess is Air Force will likely continue to run the ball more than it throws, which means a healthy dose of seniors Chad Hall (784 yards rushing, 5 TDs) and Ryan Williams (442, 4).

How will Air Force's smallish offensive line fare at the point of attack in this new scheme, especially against conference foes TCU, BYU and Utah, all of which have big, big guys up front?

The transition from DeBerry to Calhoun should be a relatively smooth one from the perspective that coaching at a military academy is different than a regular school when it comes to running a program. Calhoun attended the Academy, so if there are any hurdles to getting things done, it won't faze him.

What may affect him is how tough it will be to play conventional football with guys who will be smaller than their opponents every time they line up for a conference game. Guys in the Mountain West may not be as big as the Denver Broncos or Houston Texans, where Calhoun had previously coached, but they're certainly bigger than the flyboys he'll be coaching in Colorado Springs.

San Diego » 2006 Record: 3-9 » Mountain West: 3-5

#8 SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

PRESEASON RANK

For a while, it appeared Chuck Long's inaugural season as coach of the Aztecs would be a total loss.

The Aztecs were 0-5 to begin 2006 and there were fears they would go winless. But they defeated Air Force to get some much-needed confidence, beat UNLV in the second week of November and finished the year with a 17-6 win over Colorado State.

Now, 3-9 wasn't what Long envisioned when he took the job, but at 3-5 in the conference, the Aztecs avoided the cellar, finishing seventh.

Coaches talk about wanting to take that next step. But that means knowing how to walk first. San Diego State is still in its crawling stage as Long prepares for Year Two.

He does have some talent to work with. Sophomore running back Atiyyah Henderson averaged 4.4 yards per carry as a freshman and was the team's Offensive Player of the Year. At 6-6 and 335 pounds, senior guard Brandyn Dombrowski is one of the league's biggest players. Linebacker Russell Allen can make plays and is one of the more physical guys in the MWC.

But there's a lot of work to do. Long kept his staff together and that continuity can only help. The team was ravaged by injuries a year ago. If quarterback Kevin O'Connell is over the thumb injury that sidelined him a year ago, he's a significant upgrade over Kevin Craft, who had to learn on the fly.

The Aztecs also lost three games by a total of 12 points. Win two of those games this year and you'll have progress.

The defense surrendered 325 points for the second straight season. If Long intends to move the program forward, those numbers must come down dramatically.

Don't underestimate the change in karma. San Diego State is switching sidelines at Qualcomm Stadium this year to get closer to the press box where the coaches hang out.

Head Coach: Chuck Long
2nd Year (3-9)
Career Record: 3-9
Stadium: Qualcomm Stadium
Tickets: 619-283-SDSU
Capacity: 54,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.goaztecs.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	3
2005	5
2004	4
2003	6
2002	4

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 8	@WASHINGTON ST.	
S. 15	@ARIZONA ST.	
S. 22	**Portland State**	
S. 29	**Cincinnati**	
O. 6	@COLORADO ST.	17-6
O. 13	@UTAH	7-38
O. 20	**New Mexico**	14-41
O. 27	**Brigham Young**	17-47
N. 3	**Wyoming**	24-27
N. 10	@UNLV	21-7
N. 17	@AIR FORCE	19-12
N. 24	**TCU**	0-52

GAME TO WATCH

Baby steps for the Aztecs. After an embarrassing loss to I-AA Cal Poly last year, they need this one to get back on track—and the Vikings are no pushovers.

** at Seattle, WA*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **41/21**

OFFENSE

QB	7	Kevin O'Connell (6-6, 225, Sr.)
TB	21	Atiyyah Henderson (5-9, 185, So.)
FB	23	Tyler Campbell (6-0, 215, Jr.)
LT	76	Will Robinson (6-6, 280, Sr.)
LG	63	Peter Manuma (6-4, 280, Sr.)
C	50	Trask Iosefa (6-0, 295, r-Fr.)
RG	62	Brandyn Dombrowski (6-6, 335, Sr.)
RT	70	Mike Kravetz (6-5, 290, Sr.)
TE	81	Steve Schmidt (6-5, 250, Sr.)
WR	1	Chaz Schilens (6-4, 220, Sr.)
WR	16	Brett Swain (6-1, 200, Sr.)

DEFENSE

DE	92	Siaosi Fifita (6-4, 260, Jr.)
DT	94	Nick Osborn (6-4, 260, Sr.)
DT	96	Peter Nelson (6-5, 270, So.)
DE	49	Brian Stanbra (6-4, 220, Sr.)
SLB	46	Russell Allen (6-3, 230, Jr.)
MLB	35	Luke Laolagi (6-1, 230, So.)
WLB	36	Brett Martin (6-0, 235, Sr.)
CB	43	Aaron Moore (6-0, 190, So.)
CB	39	Scotty James (5-10, 175, Sr.)
FS	5	T.J. McKay (6-1, 195, Jr.)
SS	20	Ray Bass (6-0, 195, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	14	Garrett Palmer (6-3, 185, Sr.)
P	17	Michael Hughes (6-1, 190, Sr.)

Las Vegas · 2006 Record: 2-10 · Mountain West: 1-7

#9 UNLV REBELS

PRESEASON RANK

Welcome to the hot seat, Mike Sanford.

After boasting at his introductory press conference two years ago that his team would compete for the championship and go bowling, Sanford has won a grand total of four games in his two years with the Rebels.

For those who still care, that's not sitting well. Many UNLV fans have jumped on Lon Kruger's basketball bandwagon after the Runnin' Rebels went to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament in March.

The only thing worse than anger is apathy, so unless Sanford and his guys turn things around quickly, Sam Boyd Stadium will have a lot of folks disguised as empty seats.

Yes, UNLV appears to have recruited well and some of those newcomers may have to step in right away. But the Rebels' fortunes will likely hinge on two star players who were beset by injuries last season.

On offense, quarterback Rocky Hinds simply can't stay healthy. He had yet another knee surgery in the offseason and was held out of spring practice. The one-time USC recruit started and finished 2006 in spectacular fashion, throwing for 322 yards in the Rebels' season-opening win over Idaho State, then concluding the year with a 351-yard performance in UNLV's 42-39 win over Air Force.

Beau Bell was on the way to a big year when he sprained his ankle at BYU and never played again. The senior is a game-changer at linebacker and, if he can return to his sophomore-season form, he could help reduce the number of yards and points the Rebels have been surrendering. UNLV was last in scoring defense last year (31.8 ppg) in the MWC.

Look for wideouts Ryan Wolfe, the league's reigning Freshman of the Year, and Casey Flair to become big-time receivers, while Nebraska transfer Ronnie Smith could boost the running game.

Head Coach: Mike Sanford
3rd Year (4-19)
Career Record: 4-19
Stadium: Sam Boyd Stadium
Tickets: 702-739-FANS
Capacity: 36,800
Official athletic Web site:
www.unlvrebels.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	2
2005	2
2004	2
2003	6
2002	5

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 30	**@UTAH STATE**	
S. 8	**Wisconsin**	
S. 15	**Hawaii**	13-42
S. 22	**Utah**	23-45
S. 29	@NEVADA	3-31
O. 6	@AIR FORCE	42-39
O. 13	**Brigham Young**	7-52
O. 20	**Colorado State**	7-28
O. 27	@WYOMING	26-34
N. 10	**San Diego State**	7-21
N. 17	@TCU	10-25
N. 24	@NEW MEXICO	36-39 (OT)

GAME TO WATCH

Without some wins to start the season, the rest of the schedule won't matter much to disgruntled Rebel fans. UNLV needs some momentum early.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **43/23**

OFFENSE

QB	3	Rocky Hinds (6-5, 220, Jr.)
TB	26	David Peeples (5-9, 205, Jr.)
LT	79	Richie Plunkett (6-6, 290, So.)
LG	55	Tim Goins (6-4, 295, Sr.)
C	59	Joe Hawley (6-3, 280, So.)
RG	74	Mike McKiski (6-6, 310, Sr.)
RT	78	Johan Asiata (6-4, 325, Jr.)
WR	88	Ryan Wolfe (6-1, 205, So.)
WR	1	Aaron Straiten (6-2, 195, Sr.)
WR	84	Rodelin Anthony (6-5, 220, So.)
WR	80	Casey Flair (6-1, 190, Jr.)

DEFENSE

DE	9	Jeremy Geathers (6-2, 245, Jr.)
DT	98	Elton Shackelford (6-2, 270, Sr.)
DT	92	Jacob Hales (6-5, 290, Jr.)
DE	94	Thor Pili (6-3, 265, Jr.)
REBEL	14	Starr Fuimaono (5-11, 210, So.)
MLB	44	Bradley Niles (6-0, 245, Sr.)
WLB	2	Beau Bell (6-3, 245, Sr.)
LCB	5	Mil'Von James (6-0, 210, Sr.)
RCB	7	Geoff Howard (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	23	Tony Cade (6-2, 205, Sr.)
SS	25	Daryl Forte (5-10, 185, So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Sergio Aguayo (6-1, 200, Sr.)
P	49	Brian Pacheco (5-9, 190, Sr.)

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

www.mac-sports.com

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. Ohio tailback Kalvin McRae will get the attention he deserves this season. How many people have heard of the running back who enters the 2007 season as the third-leading active rusher in Division I-A football?

2. The MAC plays a number of games against BCS opponents on Sept. 1. On the docket that day is Central Michigan at Kansas, while Northern Illinois takes on Iowa at Soldier Field, Toledo plays host to Purdue and Bowling Green is at Minnesota. Look for the MAC to win at least two of those contests.

3. Temple will probably break the MAC record for largest home attendance when it plays host to Penn State at Lincoln Financial Field Nov. 10. And that won't be the only league record the Owls break this season.

4. The MAC's return to a system using inter-division records will result in a controversial champion. While a team may win more "MAC" games, victories against the teams in the other division won't matter much—until one squad loses a division title despite a better record in conference contests.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Dante Love, Ball State

BEST HANDS
Corey Partridge, WR, Bowling Green

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Mike Kokal, Miami

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Julian Edelman, Kent State

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Ontario Sneed, Central Michigan

BEST INSTINCTS
Barry Church, DB, Toledo

BEST ATHLETE
Naaman Roosevelt, QB/WR, Buffalo

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Chris Nendick, PK, Northern Illinois

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Londen Fryar, CB, Western Michigan

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Frank Edmonds, RB, Ball State

HARDEST HITTER
Jack Williams, DB, Kent State

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Anthony Turner, QB, Bowling Green

Sensational young quarterbacks shaking up MAC in a big way

By **JOHN WAGNER**
The (Toledo) Blade

"Fair is foul, and foul is fair."—MacBeth, Act 1, Scene I.

Never thought you'd read a little Shakespeare in a football preview, did you?

Well, quoting the Bard when discussing college football is only a mild surprise compared to all the unlikely events that unfolded around the MAC football scene last year.

Central Michigan won its first league title since 1994. Really? Ohio almost grabbed its first crown since 1968. Who saw that coming? And Kent State led the East Division much of the season, nearly earning its first football title since 1972. Huh?

And talk about topsy-turvy: both Toledo and Miami suffered its first losing year in the MAC since 1993. What's more, the Redhawks' 10-loss season was just their second since the program began in 1888.

The prime reason for the shakeup was the development of young quarterbacks around the league. And we do mean young: the top of the passing charts featured a sophomore in Julian Edelman of Kent State as well as two freshmen in Dan LeFevour of Central Michigan, the MAC Freshman of the Year, and Ball State's Nate Davis.

One change is certain this season: the league will choose its two champions based on victories within the division. That format became a must when the MAC added Temple this fall, giving it an unbalanced number of teams.

But the influx of talented newcomers last season is a clear signal that more changes may be in store for the league this year.

Perennial powers such as Toledo, Miami and Bowling Green may reassert themselves and move back to the top of the standings, to be sure. But those teams could continue struggling, and some other program may assert itself.

Does that mean conference newcomer Temple might contend for a title in its first season? Certainly.

Can Eastern Michigan vault out of the West Division basement? No reason not to think so.

And is there a chance Buffalo wins more than two league games for the first time since joining the conference? Why not?

After all, we found a way to incorporate Shakespeare in a football preview, didn't we?

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. MIAMI ▸ Three St. Louis natives among 23 signees.
2. AKRON ▸ Nine Pennsylvania recruits are key to this class.
3. TOLEDO ▸ Fourteen of Toledo's 20 signees are listed at offensive positions.
4. BALL STATE ▸ The 5-8 Frank Edmonds may have an immediate impact at running back.
5. TEMPLE ▸ Seven of the Owls' 29 recruits enrolled in the winter.
6. KENT STATE ▸ Five wide receivers/tight ends signed to offer options for QB Julian Edelman.
7. WESTERN MICHIGAN ▸ Eleven players from Florida—and only one from Michigan.
8. EASTERN MICHIGAN ▸ The Eagles, meanwhile, signed 13 from their home state.
9. BOWLING GREEN ▸ Linebacker Mark Wooldridge and running back Eric Ransom may play quickly.
10. OHIO ▸ Ten states, including Nebraska, are represented.
11. CENTRAL MICHIGAN ▸ Only 17 signees in Coach Butch Jones' first class.
12. NORTHERN ILLINOIS ▸ Nineteen-member class features three quarterbacks and one running back.
13. BUFFALO ▸ Class includes 11 players from Florida, Texas and Ohio.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-MAC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Dan LeFevour, So., Central Michigan	DL	Larry English, Jr., Northern Illinois
RB	Jalen Parmele, Sr., Toledo	DL	Jason Jones, Sr., Eastern Michigan
RB	Kalvin McRae, Sr., Ohio	DL	Jameson Hartke, Jr., Ohio
OL	Andrew Hartline, Jr., Central Michigan	DL	Landon Cohen, Sr., Ohio
OL	John Greco, Sr., Toledo	LB	Cortlan Booker, Sr., Ball State
OL	Kory Lichtensteiger, Sr., Bowling Green	LB	Joey Hudson, Jr., Miami
OL	Alex Derenthal, r-Jr., Temple	LB	Red Keith, Sr., Central Michigan
OL	Chris Kemme, Jr., Akron	DB	John Mackey, Sr., Akron
WR	Bryan Anderson, So., Central Michigan	DB	Barry Church, So., Toledo
WR	Dante Love, Jr., Ball State	DB	Londen Fryar, Jr., Western Michigan
TE	Chris Hopkins, Sr., Toledo	DB	Jack Williams, Jr., Kent State
PK	Chris Nendick, Sr., Northern Illinois	P	Chris Miller, Jr., Ball State

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

EAST

P. 138 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — OHIO 1
P. 139 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — MIAMI (OH) 2
P. 139 STOCK: DOWN ↙↙↙↙ — AKRON 3
P. 139 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — TEMPLE 4
P. 140 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — KENT STATE 5
P. 140 STOCK: DOWN ↙↙↙↙ — BOWLING GREEN 6
P. 140 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — BUFFALO 7

WEST

P. 141 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — CENTRAL MICHIGAN 1
P. 142 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — WESTERN MICHIGAN 2
P. 142 STOCK: DOWN ↙↙↙↙ — NORTHERN ILLINOIS 3
P. 143 STOCK: DOWN ↙↙↙↙ — TOLEDO 4
P. 143 STOCK: UP ↗↗↗↗ — BALL STATE 5
P. 143 STOCK: STEADY ←→ — EASTERN MICHIGAN 6

#1 OHIO BOBCATS

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 9-5 » **MAC: 7-1** *(lost to Southern Miss in the GMAC Bowl, 28-7)*

Athens **Stadium:** Peden Stadium (24,000) **Tickets:** 800-575-CATS

Let's be Frank: Solich has made Bobcats fearsome

Perhaps it takes a little perspective to appreciate Frank Solich. The former Nebraska fullback spent 15 years as an assistant at his alma mater before taking over as head coach in 1998. In six years, Solich led the Cornhuskers to a 58-19 record and .753 winning percentage, five bowl bids and two Big 12 Coach-of-the-Year awards.

Was that good enough for the 'Husker faithful? Apparently not, since they sent him packing after a 9-3 season in 2003.

Was that good enough for Ohio football fans? You're kidding, right?

Except for a nice run under current Wake Forest Coach Jim Grobe in the late 1990s, the Bobcats football program had wallowed near the bottom of the MAC for the better part of 40 years. In the four years before Solich arrived in Athens, the Bobcats were 8-24 in MAC games.

Ohio quickly responded to Solich's leadership, posting a 4-7 record in his first season before rocketing to the top of the East Division last year. The Bobcats were 9-3 during the regular season and won the division title, the program's first championship of any sort since 1968, with a 7-1 mark.

While Ohio lost in the MAC Championship Game, the Bobcats still earned a berth to the GMAC Bowl, just the third postseason bid in the program's long history.

Can Ohio continue the successes it enjoyed last season? It would be hard to bet against Solich and his program.

One reason is the system the veteran coach has installed at Ohio. The Bobcats win with a defense that combines pressure with toughness, an offense that enjoys grinding out long drives with mistake-free precision and special teams that produce big plays and limit what opponents can do.

A second reason not to bet against the Bobcats is the return of significant starters on both sides of the ball. While the defense will lose three all-conference performers in linebackers Matt Muncy and Tyler Russ along with cornerback T.J. Wright, six starters return to key a stout unit that allowed just 18.1 points per game, fewest in the MAC.

The line is anchored by senior Landon Cohen and junior Jameson Hartke. Both received second-team all-league honors last season.

The defensive backfield also has experience returning thanks to junior corner Mark Parson, senior free safety Todd Koenig and junior strong safety Michael Mitchell. The biggest question for the defense is at linebacker, where Muncy, Russ and Michael Graham are gone after making more than 700 tackles in a combined 90 starts over their careers.

The offense also took a hit from graduation as it lost six starters, including All-MAC offensive tackle Matt Coppage. While there isn't much depth back on the line—Coppage was one of only six linemen to play more than 200 snaps—there is plenty of experience returning.

Senior right guard Matt Miller, who started all 14 games last season and has 30 starts in his career, will anchor this unit. Senior David Shelby also started all 14 games at right tackle, while senior Paul Johnson and junior Mike Eynon have experience at the guard positions.

This group will be making holes for one of the best running backs in the conference as two-time All-MAC performer Kalvin McRae returns. Last season, McRae rumbled for 1,252 yards and 15 touchdowns, giving him 2,964 career yards.

Who will hand the ball to McRae, though? With the graduation of Austen Everson, the logical choice seemed to be Brad Bower, a senior transfer from Illinois who saw action when Everson was hurt late last season. But Theo Scott, a sophomore juco transfer who originally redshirted at California in 2005, is expected to challenge for that job.

THE NEXT BIG THING

TAJ HENLEY, LB

Henley has spent the past two seasons champing at the bit to earn regular playing time. MAC offenses will feel his frustration this fall.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Noah Keller, LB, 6-1, 226**
   Top Nebraska defender is a big catch.
2. **Vince Davidson, RB, 5-11, 190**
   New Jersey product has starter potential.
3. **Donte Harden, RB, 5-11, 180**
   Two-way prep standout could play immediately.
4. **Theo Scott, QB, 6-1, 190**
   Former Cal recruit is in Solich's future plans.
5. **Errik Ejike, LB, 6-2, 205**
   Texan is an active outside defender.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	4
SPECIAL TEAMS	2
COACHING	4

» **Head Coach: Frank Solich**
3rd Year (13-12) Career Record: 71-31

Official athletic Web site: www.ohiobobcats.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Gardner-Webb**	
S. 8	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
S.15	» @VIRGINIA TECH	
S. 22	**Wyoming**	
S. 29	**Kent State**	17-7
O. 6	@BUFFALO	42-7
O. 13	**Eastern Michigan**	16-10
O. 20	@TOLEDO	
O. 27	@BOWLING GREEN	9-21
N. 2	**Temple**	
N. 7	@AKRON	17-7
N. 24	**Miami (OH)**	34-24

GAME TO WATCH

The Bobcats are on the move and can measure how far they've come under Frank Solich on what is by far the toughest Saturday on the schedule.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9
2005	4
2004	4
2003	2
2002	4

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **11**
Lettermen returning/lost: **38/19**

» OFFENSE		
QB	14	Brad Bower (6-2, 215, Sr.)
TB	5	Kalvin McRae (5-11, 208, Sr.)
FB	39	Mitch Morsillo (6-1, 243, So.)
LT	74	Josh Leuck (6-3, 289, Jr.)
LG	77	Paul Johnson (6-2, 318, Sr.)
C	66	Tommy Stuck (6-1, 286, Jr.)
RG	79	Matt Miller (6-3, 312, Sr.)
RT	52	David Shelby (6-4, 296, Sr.)
TE	84	David Carter (6-5, 246, Jr.)
WR	28	Chris Garrett (5-8, 174, So.)
WR	23	Taylor Price (6-1, 184, So.)
» DEFENSE		
DE	95	Ernie Hodge (6-2, 271, So.)
NG	94	Brett Sykes (6-2, 273, Sr.)
DT	55	Landon Cohen (6-3, 274, Sr.)
DE	90	Jameson Hartke (6-4, 262, Jr.)
SLB	35	Michael Brown (6-3, 230, Jr.)
MLB	56	Taj Henley (6-1, 232, Sr.)
WLB	48	Jordan Meyers (6-0, 220, Jr.)
CB	24	Mark Parson (5-10, 188, Jr.)
CB	4	Idris Lawrence (5-8, 170, So.)
FS	8	Todd Koenig (6-2, 214, Sr.)
SS	34	Michael Mitchell (6-1, 217, Jr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK		Michael Braunstein (5-6, 198, Sr.)
P	43	Matt Schulte (6-0, 179, r-Fr.)

» Oxford, Ohio

MIAMI REDHAWKS

#2 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 2-10 » MAC: 2-6

Was last season's 2-10 disaster a one-year aberration or the first in the decline of one of the league's most successful programs?

The answer probably is the former, not the latter. The RedHawks were decimated by injuries, which limited former 2005 second-team All-MAC running back Brandon Murphy to eight games, took away two starters from the offensive line and crippled a young defense that was trying to replace nine starters from 2005.

Quarterback Mike Kokal (219.1 passing yards a game) should benefit from the return of Murphy, who gained more than 1,100 yards in 2005 but was limited by ankle problems last year. But Kokal also lost a number of his targets from last season, meaning young receivers such as Dustin Woods will need to step forward.

Murphy should benefit from the return of fourth-year starter Charlie Norden at left tackle. Norden played in only four games because of a foot injury. He and Steve Meister, who will move from left guard to center, will anchor an offensive line that looks to cut down on the league-worst 49 sacks it allowed.

The defense should benefit from the return of linebackers Joey Hudson and Clayton Mullins. Last season, Hudson earned All-MAC second-team honors after recording a team-high 97 tackles and intercepting five passes, while Mullins ranked second on the RedHawks with 91 stops.

Head Coach: Shane Montgomery, 3rd Year (9-14)
Career Record: 9-14
Stadium: Yager Stadium **Capacity:** 24,286
Tickets: 866-MUHAWKS
Official athletic Web site: www.muredhawks.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 30	@ BALL STATE
S. 8	@MINNESOTA
S. 15	**Cincinnati**
S. 22	@COLORADO
S. 29	**Syracuse**
O. 6	@KENT STATE
O. 13	**Bowling Green**
O. 20	@TEMPLE
O. 27	@VANDERBILT
N. 3	**Buffalo**
N. 14	**Akron**
N. 24	@OHIO

GAME TO WATCH

Miami desperately needs to rebound from a nasty 2006, and it can start by winning conference games again. Look for the RedHawks to get back on track early and avenge last season's close loss to the Cards.

» Akron, Ohio

AKRON ZIPS

#3 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 5-7 » MAC: 3-5

The Zips earned the mantle of MAC champs with a good finish to the 2005 season, but they certainly didn't wear the crown well last fall.

Akron claimed a fine non-conference victory at North Carolina State last year, but the team then lost three of its first four league games and never did fully recover.

Returning to the top of the mountain will be a tough climb for the Zips, who lost quarterback Luke Getsy and four of the team's starting offensive linemen. Left-hander Carlton Jackson, a sophomore, is the frontrunner to replace Getsy, while junior Chris Kemme, a second-team All-MAC tackle last season, will anchor the line.

Last year Akron hit a pair of home runs in substituting for departed skill players. Junior Dennis Kennedy replaced Brett Biggs and became a second-team All-MAC running back thanks to his 914 rushing yards, while sophomore David Harvey helped fill the shoes of receivers Domenik Hixon and Jason Montgomery to earn All-MAC second-team honors, thanks to an average of 21.3 yards per catch and 10 touchdown receptions.

But it's the Akron defense that needs to step forward if the Zips expect to challenge for another league title. Kevin Grant and Brion Stokes ranked second and third, respectively, on the team in tackles last season and key a deep, talented linebacking corps. The secondary is even more talented and led by senior rover John Mackey.

Head Coach: J.D. Brookhart, 4th year (18-18)
Career Record: 18-18
Stadium: Rubber Bowl **Capacity:** 31,000
Tickets: 888-99-AKRON
Official athletic Web site: www.gozips.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	**Army***
S. 8	@OHIO STATE
S. 15	@INDIANA
S. 22	KENT STATE
S. 29	@CONNECTICUT
O. 6	@W. MICHIGAN
O. 13	**Temple**
O. 27	@BUFFALO
N. 2	@BOWLING GREEN
N. 7	**Ohio**
N. 14	@MIAMI (OH)
N. 23	**Central Michigan**

**at Cleveland, OH*

GAME TO WATCH

The Zips made a miserable effort at defending their title last year. In the flawed new conference setup, this early intra-division matchup means a lot.

» Philadelphia

TEMPLE OWLS

#4 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 1-11 » MAC: 0-0

The Owls face perhaps the most important season in the program's history.

This fall, Temple will look to erase the sting of its removal from the Big East after the 2004 season by making waves during the team's first year in the MAC.

And a splash certainly is possible, even though the Owls have won only one game in the past two seasons. They return a number of starters on both sides of the ball, but the roster includes only two scholarship seniors.

The biggest question on offense is at quarterback, where redshirt junior Adam DiMichele and sophomore Vaughn Charlton will battle for the starter's role. There also is uncertainty at tailback, where the lone returnee with game experience is Jason Harper.

The winners of those skirmishes will benefit from working behind an experienced offensive line led by redshirt junior center Alex Derenthal, the team's MVP as a sophomore, and redshirt sophomore left tackle Devin Tyler.

Whoever wins the quarterback battle will throw to a veteran corps of receivers featuring Bruce Francis (team-leading 32 catches), and Travis Shelton, who also ranks among the top kick returners in the country.

The defense also returns seven starters as it switches to a 4-3 alignment. The move plays to the unit's strength, as the line returns seven experienced players.

Head Coach: Al Golden, 2nd Year (1-11)
Career Record: 1-11
Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field **Capacity:** 68,532
Tickets: 215-204-8499
Official athletic Web site: www.owlsports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	**Navy**
S. 8	**Buffalo**
S. 15	@CONNECTICUT
S. 22	@BOWLING GREEN
S. 29	@ARMY
O. 6	**Northern Illinois**
O. 13	@AKRON
O. 20	MIAMI (OH)
N. 2	@OHIO
N. 10	**Penn State**
N. 17	**Kent State**
N. 24	@W. MICHIGAN

GAME TO WATCH

The Penn State game is a big deal, but the Owls need to start strong in the MAC. This home battle with the RedHawks comes in the middle of a three-game stretch with the class of their new division.

» Kent, Ohio

KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

5

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 6-6 » MAC: 5-3

For a brief, heady moment last season, the Golden Flashes seemed on the verge of snapping out of their lower-division malaise of years past.

After starting the season 5-2, Kent State lost a critical home contest against Ohio and imploded the next game, losing by 27 points at Buffalo, ruining a promising season.

Now, the question is, can Kent State recapture that early-season momentum from 2006 and build on it to compete for a title?

Some of the building blocks already are in place. Junior quarterback Julian Edelman gave the offense a multi-talented threat by running for 658 yards and seven touchdowns in 2006 while throwing for 1,859 yards and 10 more scores to earn second-team All-MAC honors.

Redshirt sophomore Eugene Jarvis also returns after rushing for 798 yards in his first season, giving the Flashes one of the top ground attacks in the MAC. Kent State will probably need a strong running game early this season as a young corps of receivers looks to replace departed all-leaguer Najah Pruden.

But the bigger concern is how Kent State will replace the missing parts of a defense that ranked among the best in the conference. Defensive backs Usama Young and Andre Kirkland joined defensive lineman Daniel Muir in signing with NFL teams after last season.

Kevin Hogan will lead the 2007 defensive line. Jack Williams, who led the MAC in fumbles forced (5), is the top returnee in the secondary.

Head Coach: Doug Martin, 4th Year (12-22)
Career Record: 12-22
Stadium: Dix Stadium **Capacity:** 29,287
Tickets: 330-672-2244
Official athletic Web site: www.kentstatesports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 30	@IOWA STATE
S. 8	@KENTUCKY
S. 15	**Delaware State**
S. 22	**@ AKRON**
S. 29	@OHIO
O. 6	**Miami (OH)**
O. 13	@OHIO STATE
O. 20	**Bowling Green**
O. 27	**Central Michigan**
N. 10	@N. ILLINOIS
N. 17	@TEMPLE
N. 24	**Buffalo**

GAME TO WATCH

They were "Flashes-in-the-pan" after three ugly conference losses killed the momentum of five straight wins last season. Kent State needs to start out strong in the MAC again before getting to work on its late-season form.

» Bowling Green, Ohio

BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

6

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 4-8 » MAC: 3-5

At first glance, it's hard to understand why the Falcons finished 4-8 last season. Bowling Green's offense proved capable of moving the ball, and the defense seemed able to stop opponents as both units finished in the upper half of the MAC statistics. And even though there was youth on both sides of the ball, there also clearly was talent.

But the team's biggest problems weren't on offense or defense. In fact, the Falcons' special teams struggled so much last season, the offense and defense often found itself in holes neither unit could overcome.

Bowling Green made just 4-of-9 field goals and missed three extra points. The punting game ranked last in the MAC and failed to net even 30 yards per kick, while Falcon return men ranked next-to-last in the league for yards per return.

The Falcons brought in junior-college transfers Nick Iovinelli and Sinisa Vrvillo to hopefully solve the problems in the punting and kicking games, respectively.

The defense should be better this fall. The line will be anchored by Diyral Briggs, who finished with 69 tackles and seven sacks last year, while linebacker Erique Dozier is back as the returning team leader in tackles (98), including nine for loss.

There is experience in the backfield thanks to cornerbacks Antonio Smith, a three-year starter, and Kenny Lewis, who made 70 tackles last season.

The strength of the offense will be a line led by three-time All-MAC performer Kory Lichtensteiger.

Head Coach: Gregg Brandon, 5th Year (30-19)
Career Record: 30-19
Stadium: Doyt L. Perry Stadium **Capacity:** 23,529
Tickets: 419-372-0000
Official athletic Web site: www.bgsufalcons.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	@MINNESOTA
S. 8	@MICHIGAN STATE
S. 22	**Temple**
S. 29	**WESTERN KENTUCKY**
O. 6	@BOSTON COLLEGE
O. 13	@MIAMI (OH)
O. 20	@KENT STATE
O. 27	**Ohio**
N. 2	**Akron**
N. 9	@E. MICHIGAN
N. 17	@BUFFALO
N. 23	**Toledo**

GAME TO WATCH

The Hilltoppers could be mailing it in for their inaugural I-A campaign and should give the Falcons a desperately needed win on what promises to be a tough schedule.

Buffalo, N.Y.

BUFFALO BULLS

7

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 2-10 MAC: 1-7

If former Nebraska star Turner Gill didn't know the scope of the rebuilding project by becoming the new Buffalo coach, he learned fairly quickly.

Things seemed to be looking up when the Bulls won their opener over Temple. While the team was victorious just once more in 2006, there are signs that this program, which has posted a miserable 8-56 record in the conference over the past eight seasons, is finally moving forward.

One is the return of 56 letterwinners from a year ago, including 17 starters. Another was the promise shown by athletes such as Naaman Roosevelt, James Starks, Trevor Scott and Kareem Byrom.

Gill had no qualms with throwing Roosevelt, a true freshman last season, onto the field and all the youngster did was respond with 31 receptions while also ranking among the top kick-returners in the MAC.

Starks, a quarterback in high school, excelled in a move to running back by rushing for 704 yards and six touchdowns to earn All-MAC second-team honors.

Scott shifted from tight end to defensive end and quickly became a standout, recording 45 tackles and a school-record nine sacks.

And Byrom, a safety who finished third on the team with 88 tackles last year, proved his versatility by moving to linebacker when injuries struck.

Quarterback Drew Willy will have to hold off a challenge by Roosevelt, who switched to QB during spring.

Head Coach: Turner Gill, 2nd Year (2-10)
Career Record: 2-10
Stadium: University of Buffalo Stadium **Capacity:** 29,013
Tickets: 716-645-6666
Official athletic Web site: www.buffalobulls.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 30	@RUTGERS
S. 8	**@ TEMPLE**
S. 15	@PENN STATE
S. 22	**Baylor**
S. 29	@BALL STATE
O. 6	**Ohio**
O. 13	**Toledo**
O. 20	@SYRACUSE
O. 27	**Akron**
N. 3	@MIAMI (OH)
N. 17	**Bowling Green**
N. 24	@KENT STATE

GAME TO WATCH

The Bulls topped Temple in dramatic fashion a year ago. Now they have the chance to give the Owls a proper welcome in their first official MAC contest.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

2006 Record: 10-4 » **MAC: 7-1** *(beat Middle Tennessee in Motor City Bowl, 31-14)*

Stadium: Kelly/Shorts Stadium (30,255) **Tickets:** 989-774-3045 **Mount Pleasant**

 # 1
PRESEASON RANK

» **Head Coach: Butch Jones**
1st Year

Official athletic Web site: www.cmuchippewas.com

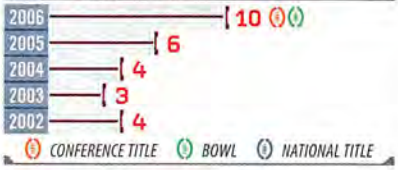
2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@KANSAS	
S. 8	**Toledo**	42-20
S. 15	@PURDUE	
S. 22	**North Dakota State**	
S. 29	» **Northern Illinois**	10-31
O. 6	@BALL STATE	18-7
O. 13	**Army**	
O. 20	@CLEMSON	
O. 27	@KENT STATE	
N. 6	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	31-7
N. 16	**Eastern Michigan**	24-17 (OT)
N. 23	@AKRON	24-21

» GAME TO WATCH «

Butch Jones can make a statement to the homecoming crowd in avenging Central's only conference loss under his predecessor, Brian Kelly, a year ago.

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **39/14**

» OFFENSE		
QB	13	Dan LeFevour (6-3, 226, r-So.)
RB	28	Ontario Sneed (5-11, 203, Jr.)
LT	74	Andrew Hartline (6-5, 297, r-Jr.)
LG	71	Michael Raffaeli (6-5, 304, Sr.)
C	65	Mike Decker (6-1, 286, Sr.)
RG	69	Eric Tunney (6-3, 291, Sr.)
RT	77	Greg Wojt (6-4, 285, r-Jr.)
TE	15	Sam Williams (6-4, 218, r-So.)
WR	80	Justin Gardner (6-2, 191, Sr.)
WR	1	Kito Poblah (6-2, 196, r-Fr.)
WR	87	Bryan Anderson (6-5, 194, r-So.)
» DEFENSE		
DE	95	Larry Knight (6-3, 243, So.)
NG	51	Casey Droscha (6-1, 258, r-Jr.)
DT	94	Steven Friend (6-2, 294, Sr.)
DE	98	Frank Zombo (6-4, 259, So.)
SLB	6	Ike Brown (5-11, 203, Sr.)
MLB	41	Red Keith (5-11, 242, Sr.)
WLB	39	Victor Doman (6-1, 233, Sr.)
CB	19	Josh Gordy (5-11, 190, r-So.)
CB	4	Chaz West (5-11, 181, So.)
FS	20	Calvin Hissong (6-4, 196, r-So.)
SS	10	Curtis Cutts (6-0, 214, Sr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	89	Brett Hartmann (6-3, 215, So.)
P	35	Tony Mikulec (5-8, 219, Sr.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3
COACHING	3

High-octane offense led by sensational soph Dan LeFevour should drive Chippewas far

Rookies ruled the MAC last season, and nowhere was that more apparent than with the success of the Chippewas.

Dan LeFevour earned the conference's Freshman-of-the-Year honor after setting school records for passing yards (3,031), touchdown passes (26) and total offense (3,552 yards).

One of his favorite targets was another freshman, Bryan Anderson, who joined LeFevour on the All-MAC first team after catching a school-record 73 passes for 867 yards and five touchdowns.

And the defense benefited from strong play from freshmen such as linemen Larry Knight and Frank Zombo, as well as Calvin Hissong at free safety and cornerbacks Josh Gordy and Chaz West.

But the Chippewas are going to need at least one new "freshman" to step up if they hope to repeat as MAC champions and defend the program's first league title since 1994.

That newcomer is Coach Butch Jones, who replaced Brian Kelly after he took over at Cincinnati following last season's title run.

Jones is no stranger to the program, having served as an assistant at CMU from 1998-2004. The Michigan native spent the past two seasons at West Virginia, so he's familiar with the uptempo offensive style the Chippewas favor.

Jones will have plenty of weapons on offense thanks to the return of LeFevour, who was intercepted just 10 times in 14 games and also ran for 521 yards and seven scores.

Two of LeFevour's top receivers, Damien Linson and Obed Cétoute, were lost to graduation. But Anderson is a top-flight target, as is senior Justin Gardner, who caught 36 passes for 471 yards. And the position has depth thanks to senior Jemmy Jasmin, junior Darren Martin and redshirt freshman Kito Poblah.

The running game features junior Ontario Sneed, who last season ran for 764 yards and four touchdowns. Sneed, who also caught 52 passes for 415 yards and seven more scores, will receive a challenge from junior Justin Hoskins, a transfer from Notre Dame, and Marcel Archer, a sophomore who ran for seven touchdowns.

The biggest offensive questions are on the line, where the losses included all-league tackle Joe Staley and center Drew Mormino. Senior Eric Tunney, another All-MAC pick last year, will start at guard while juniors Andrew Hartline and Mike Decker are probable starters at tackle and center, respectively.

Junior Greg Wojt is the front-runner to fill the tackle position opposite Hartline, while the competition for the other opening on the line should include senior Michael Raffaelli, junior Andrew Cribbs and sophomore Adam Antonides.

Like the offense, the defensive unit returns seven starters and must find replacements along the line. Three-time All-MAC pick Daniel Bazuin and Mike Ogle both were lost to graduation, which means tackles Steven Friend, a senior, and juniors Ronnie Ekdahl and Casey Droscha must step forward. Last season Friend recorded career highs in tackles for loss (10) and sacks (five).

Knight and Zombo are expected to start at the end positions. Knight made 26 tackles in 2006, including three for loss, while Zombo added 23 stops, three for negative yardage.

The linebacking corps will be the strength of the unit thanks to the return of Red Keith and Ike Brown. Keith earned first-team All-MAC honors last season after making 127 tackles to lead the team for the third straight year. Brown was a second-team All-MAC choice two years ago, but his 2006 season was cut short by a knee injury during the Michigan game.

THE NEXT BIG THING

» **JUSTIN HOSKINS, RB**
Hoskins is a Notre Dame transfer who will vie for playing time—and may even wrest the starting job from incumbent Ontario Sneed.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Josh Allison, DT, 6-2, 245**
Active defender had 49 career sacks.
2. **E.J. McLaughlin, DB, 6-0, 203**
Talented prospect could play soon.
3. **Mike Petrucci, LB, 6-2, 208**
Three-sport prep athlete could contribute immediately.
4. **Jake Olson, OL, 6-8, 240**
Prospect has frame for future.
5. **Brandin Friske, WR, 6-3, 207**
A small-school standout who is a sleeper.

Kalamazoo » 2006 Record: 8-5 » MAC: 6-2

(lost to Cincinnati in the International Bowl, 27-24)

LOWER-TIER BOWL

#2 » WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

PRESEASON RANK

Is the glass half-empty or half-full for Broncos football?

Positive people would bring up the program's eight-win season last year, not to mention its first bowl berth in 18 seasons, as encouraging signs. Negative nabobs will remember that the eight victories didn't result in a league title or even a division crown.

But many signs point to another banner year ahead. For example, while the Broncos lost quarterback Ryan Cubit to graduation, they have good options to replace him in Thomas Peregrin, who started in two wins last season, and Tim Hiller, the 2005 MAC Freshman of the Year who is coming back from a knee injury.

The winner of that competition will have plenty of options to throw to, the best being All-MAC tight end Branden Ledbetter and wide receiver Jamarko Simmons.

Running back Mark Bonds provides balance for the offense after rushing for 1,082 yards and seven touchdowns in 12 games. Bonds will run behind one of the better offensive lines in the conference, a unit anchored by senior center Robbie Krutilla.

The Bronco defense also suffered a big loss in MAC Defensive-Player-of-the-Year Ameer Ismail, which leaves middle linebacker Dustin Duclo in charge of that unit.

However, plenty of talent returns defensively, starting with a line that has back all four starters, including Nick Varcadipane and Cory Flom.

The other defensive strength is a corps of backs that led Division I-A football with 24 interceptions, four of which were returned for touchdowns. All-MAC cornerback Londen Fryar and fellow juniors E.J. Biggers, Louis Delmas and C.J. Wilson all are returning starters.

The Broncos need a kicker but have a solid punter in Jim Laney. Brandon West is one of the better kick returners in the league.

Head Coach: Bill Cubit
3rd Year (15-9)
Career Record: 15-9 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Waldo Stadium
Tickets: 269-387-8092
Capacity: 30,200
Official athletic Web site:
www.wmubroncos.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8
2005	7
2004	1
2003	5
2002	4

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S. 8	**Indiana**	20-39
S. 15	@MISSOURI	
S. 22	**C. Connecticut St.**	
S. 29	@TOLEDO	31-10
O. 6	**Akron**	17-0
O. 13	@N. ILLINOIS	16-14
O. 20	**Ball State**	41-27
O. 27	@E. MICHIGAN	18-15
N. 6	**CENTRAL MICHIGAN**	7-31
N. 17	@IOWA	
N. 24	**Temple**	41-7

GAME TO WATCH

Quite simply, the Broncos need to beat their division rivals for a shot at the crown. They'll have a few extra days to prepare for the Tuesday night contest.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **17**
Lettermen returning/lost: **40/11**

OFFENSE

QB	14	Thomas Peregrin (6-3, 185, Sr.)
RB	34	Mark Bonds (5-10, 215, Sr.)
LT	67	Rob Johnson (6-4, 329, Jr.)
LG	76	Steve Ellingsen (6-4, 280, Jr.)
C	78	Robbie Krutilla (6-3, 308, Sr.)
RG	62	Matt Williams (6-2, 282, Sr.)
RT	75	James Blair (6-3, 338, Sr.)
TE	82	Branden Ledbetter (6-5, 221, Jr.)
WR	7	Herb Martin (6-2, 187, Sr.)
WR	28	Chris Maragos (6-0, 185, So.)
WR	27	Jamarko Simmons (6-2, 231, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LE	54	Greg Marshall (6-0, 230, Jr.)
NG	98	Cory Flom (6-3, 285, Jr.)
DT	99	Nick Varcadipane (6-2, 272, Jr.)
RE	90	Zach Davidson (6-2, 243, Jr.)
SLB	35	Austin Pritchard (6-5, 225, Jr.)
MLB	59	Dustin Duclo (5-10, 225, Jr.)
WLB	19	Cornelius Robinson (6-2, 210, Jr.)
HB	1	E.J. Biggers (6-0, 165, Jr.)
CB	6	Londen Fryar (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS	9	Louis Delmas (6-0, 181, Jr.)
SS	26	C.J. Wilson (6-2, 206, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	17	Mike Jones (5-11, 176, Sr.)
P	39	Jim Laney (6-4, 207, Sr.)

DeKalb » 2006 Record: 7-6 » MAC: 5-3

(lost to TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl, 37-7)

#3 » NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

PRESEASON RANK

In recent seasons, the Huskies have ranked among the biggest teases in college football.

Coach Joe Novak rebuilt the program from a MAC laughingstock upon its return in 1997 to a conference powerhouse during recent seasons. But Northern Illinois never seemed to take that last step to a championship, always seeming to lose a key contest that denied the team a title.

This year, the Huskies look poised to take a step back. There are only 10 seniors on the roster, and just four of those are starters. The defense will need to carry the offense early in the year, but it has the parts in place to complete that task.

Junior Larry English and sophomore Brandon Bice are a talented pair of ends, while at linebacker junior Tim McCarthy has posted back-to-back seasons with at least 100 tackles. Phil Brown should return from a knee injury that sidelined him last season. Junior-college import Chase Carter and transfer Anthony Mason (Valparaiso) will add depth in the secondary.

The offense must be retooled after the loss of all-league performers Garrett Wolfe and Doug Free. A committee of backs led by Montell Clanton, Justin Anderson and David Bryant might replace Wolfe, who ran for 1,928 yards last season.

Dan Nicholson, who has started five games in his career, is expected to step in at quarterback. His favorite target probably will be junior Britt Davis, who has caught 99 passes in his career. Senior tackle Chris Acevedo will anchor the line.

Senior placekicker Chris Nendick will be a weapon, as will experienced punter Andy Dittbenner.

But it all adds up to a group that likely will finish just outside the spotlight.

Head Coach: Joe Novak
12th Year (61-66)
Career Record: 61-66
Stadium: Huskie Stadium
Tickets: 815-752-6800
Capacity: 28,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.niuhuskies.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	7
2005	7
2004	9
2003	10
2002	8

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**IOWA***	14-24
S. 8	**Southern Illinois**	
S. 15	**Eastern Michigan**	27-0
S. 22	@IDAHO	
S. 29	@C. MICHIGAN	31-10
O. 6	@TEMPLE	43-21
O. 13	**Western Michigan**	14-16
O. 20	@WISCONSIN	
O. 27	@TOLEDO	13-17
N. 10	**Kent State**	
N. 17	@NAVY	
N. 24	**Ball State**	40-28

GAME TO WATCH

The MAC takes on the Big Ten on its first Saturday of the season, and the Hawkeyes could be vulnerable when they arrive at Soldier Field.

** at Chicago, IL*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **41/15**

OFFENSE

QB	19	Dan Nicholson (6-2, 196, Jr.)
TB	20	Montell Clanton (5-9, 185, Jr.)
LT	70	Chris Acevedo (6-5, 304, Sr.)
LG	77	Tim Mayerbock (6-4, 311, So.)
C	50	Eddie Adamski (6-2, 286, So.)
RG	65	Jason Onyebuagu (6-2, 314, So.)
RT	60	Jon Brost (6-6, 303, Jr.)
TE	87	Brandon Davis (6-4, 268, Sr.)
WR	7	Britt Davis (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	85	Matt Simon (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	17	Greg Turner (6-0, 190, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LE	56	Brandon Bice (6-3, 241, So.)
NG	69	Alex Krutsch (6-2, 258, Jr.)
DT	99	Craig Rusch (6-4, 274, Jr.)
RE	51	Larry English (6-3, 255, Jr.)
SLB	52	Phil Brown (5-11, 222, So.)
MLB	53	Tim McCarthy (6-0, 232, Jr.)
WLB	26	Cory Hanson (6-1, 214, So.)
LCB	2	Melvin Rice (5-10, 192, Jr.)
RCB	24	Bradley Pruitt (6-1, 195, Jr.)
FS	27	Spencer Williamson (6-2, 208, So.)
SS	8	Mark Reiter (6-1, 200, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	25	Chris Nendick (5-11, 183, Sr.)
P	18	Andy Dittbenner (6-1, 201, Jr.)

» Toledo, Ohio

TOLEDO ROCKETS

#4
PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 5-7 » MAC: 3-5

Last season certainly was tough on the Rockets. The program finished 5-7 overall and 3-5 in the MAC for the program's first losing season since 1993. The team placed fifth in the six-team West Division, a far cry from the four bowl games Toledo has played in since 2001.

In fact, the only thing tougher than last year's season was the storm clouds of a point-shaving investigation that hovered over the team this past spring.

The Rockets hope to move past all those impediments and return to a spot near the top of the league thanks to 18 returning starters, including eight on each side of the ball.

On offense, the biggest question is who will serve as quarterback. Junior Clint Cochran and sophomore Aaron Opelt both saw considerable action last season. Cochran is steadier, but Opelt offers a tantalizing run-pass mix.

The winner of that competition will have plenty of weapons at his disposal. Two-time all-conference tight end Chris Hopkins also returns, while the options at receiver include junior Nick Moore and sophomore Robin Bailey.

Jalen Parmele ran for 1,131 yards and eight touchdowns last season to earn first-team All-MAC honors and will provide balance to the offense. He'll run behind a sturdy line anchored by another All-MAC first-team choice, senior tackle John Greco.

The defense is led by an experienced secondary.

Head Coach: Tom Amstutz, 7th Year (50-25)
Career Record: 50-25
Stadium: Glass Bowl **Capacity:** 26,248
Tickets: 419-530-GOLD
Official athletic Web site: www.utrockets.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	**PURDUE**
S. 8	@C. MICHIGAN
S. 15	@KANSAS
S. 22	**Iowa State**
S. 29	**Western Michigan**
O. 6	**Liberty**
O. 13	@BUFFALO
O. 20	**Ohio**
O. 27	**Northern Illinois**
N. 3	**Eastern Michigan**
N. 13	@BALL STATE
N. 23	@BOWLING GREEN

GAME TO WATCH

After all the losses and controversy, nobody needs a fresh start more than the Rockets. An inspired effort to start a tough opening schedule would be just what the doctor ordered.

» Muncie, Ind.

BALL STATE CARDINALS

#5
PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 5-7 » MAC: 5-3

It looks as if Cardinals Coach Brady Hoke has found at least part of the answer to the problem of resurrecting his alma mater's football program.

Last season, the Cards used the strong arm of quarterback Nate Davis to vault to the top of the league in passing offense, averaging 259.3 yards per game.

Davis, now a sophomore, relied primarily on his instincts and physical talent to throw for 1,975 yards and 18 scores. He will improve with continued learning about running a college offense—a thought that should frighten most MAC defenses.

To make matters worse for the rest of the league, Davis is one of seven returning starters for an offense that also boasts two of the MAC's better pass-catchers. Dante Love, a second-team All-MAC wide receiver last season, caught 52 passes, while tight end Darius Hill earned honorable mention thanks to 42 catches, including 10 for touchdowns.

MiQuale Lewis leads the competition to start at tailback, but whoever starts will run behind a veteran offensive line that returns four starters, including two-time lettermen in Dan Gerberry at center and tackles Robert Brewster and Andre Ramsey.

But the Cardinals need more defense, not offense, if they wish to push for a league title. Last year, Ball State was last in the league in total defense (433.5 ypg).

Head Coach: Brady Hoke, 5th Year (15-31)
Career Record: 15-31
Stadium: Scheumann Stadium **Capacity:** 22,500
Tickets: 765-285-1474
Official athletic Web site: www.ballstatesports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 30	**Miami (OH)**
S. 8	@E. MICHIGAN
S. 15	@NAVY
S. 22	@NEBRASKA
S. 29	**Buffalo**
O. 6	**CENTRAL MICHIGAN**
O. 13	**Western Kentucky**
O. 20	@W. MICHIGAN
O. 27	@ILLINOIS
N. 3	@INDIANA
N. 13	**Toledo**
N. 24	@N. ILLINOIS

GAME TO WATCH

The top two passing offenses in the league air it out as Nate Davis tries to outduel Dan LeFevour, who got all the props as the top rookie QB a year ago.

» Ypsilanti

EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

#6
PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 1-11 » MAC: 1-7

The Eagles may rank among the better last-place programs in MAC history.

Yes, EMU was 1-7 in the league last season. But five of those losses were by eight points or less, including near-misses against bowl participants Western Michigan (three points), Ohio (six) and Central Michigan (seven).

A total of 39 lettermen return this year for Eastern Michigan, including nine starters on defense and seven more on offense.

On the defensive line, senior tackle Jason Jones will be asked to repeat his second-team All-MAC performance of last season. He will receive help on the line from seniors Eric Young and Josh Hunt.

Junior Daniel Holtzclaw, a two-year starter in the middle who made 114 tackles last year, and senior Darren Matthews, who collected 100 stops on the strongside, lead the linebacking crew.

The backfield includes returning safeties Chris May and Jacob Wyatt, both of whom finished with 89 tackles a year ago, as well as cornerbacks Blake Smith, Duan Bracey and Lyle Garrison.

There are more questions on offense, beginning with a quarterback situation still up in the air. Andy Schmitt and Tyler Jones split the duties in 2006, with Jones moving to tailback late in the season before returning to QB this spring.

Whoever gets the start at quarterback may be hamstrung by big losses at wide receiver.

Head Coach: Jeff Genyk, 4th Year (9-25)
Career Record: 9-25
Stadium: Rynearson Stadium **Capacity:** 30,200
Tickets: 734-487-2282
Official athletic Web site: www.emueagles.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	@PITTSBURGH
S. 8	**BALL STATE**
S. 15	@N. ILLINOIS
S. 22	**Howard**
S. 29	@VANDERBILT
O. 6	@MICHIGAN
O. 13	@OHIO
O. 19	**Northwestern***
O. 27	**Western Michigan**
N. 3	@TOLEDO
N. 9	**Bowling Green**
N. 16	@C. MICHIGAN

** at Detroit, MI*

GAME TO WATCH

The Eagles were close in every MAC loss last season except two. They get those teams first on the schedule, and an early win could provide momentum for getting over the hump in tight games down the road.

SUN BELT

www.sunbeltsports.org

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 TROY — P. 145 STOCK: UP

2 ARKANSAS STATE — P. 145 STOCK: UP

3 MIDDLE TENNESSEE — P. 146 STOCK: STEADY

4 LOUISIANA-MONROE — P. 146 STOCK: UP

5 FLORIDA ATLANTIC — P. 146 STOCK: DOWN

6 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE — P. 147 STOCK: STEADY

7 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL — P. 147 STOCK: UP

8 NORTH TEXAS — P. 147 STOCK: STEADY

Growth abounds in the Sun Belt, but there's still room for improvement

By **TOMMY HICKS**
Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register

The Sun Belt Conference is growing and it's getting better. No, the SBC won't be joining the BCS nor will it have its own weekly TV package broadcast by a major network, but it is gaining ground. It should be remembered that this will be just the seventh season the league has sponsored a football championship. With that in mind, it is possible to view the growth and it's just as easy to see there remains a lot of room for improvement and forward motion.

Last season, Troy and Middle Tennessee tied for the league championship with identical 6-1 records and both earned bowl invitations—the Trojans to the New Orleans Bowl, where they defeated Rice, and the Blue Raiders to the Motor City Bowl, which resulted in a loss to Central Michigan. It was just the second time in league history the Sun Belt had a pair of teams participate in postseason football.

Western Kentucky, a league member for several years, is playing football as an independent this year as part of its move from Division I-AA (where it won the 2002 national championship) to Division I-A membership, which the Hilltoppers will attain for the 2008 season, making them eligible for the league crown and giving the Sun Belt what it has wanted for some time: nine football-playing members, which provides eight games for each team a year. Western Kentucky should also add strength and competition to the league when it claims I-A status.

Last year's battle between Troy and Middle Tennessee down the stretch—including the Trojans' improbable 21-20 win on the Blue Raiders' home field where the Trojans scored 14 points in the final 2:19—demonstrated the competition that is developing within the league. On the other end of the conference spectrum, North Texas and Florida International, the teams that respectively finished in the SBC's bottom two, needed seven overtimes to decide their meeting, with the Mean Green claiming a 25-22 win.

Look for Troy to be considered the favorite to defend its league crown, but it won't come easily. Arkansas State, Middle Tennessee and Louisiana-Monroe will all challenge the Trojans. And Florida Atlantic should be on the brink of making a move as well. Florida International, with new Coach Mario Cristobal, a former assistant at Miami and Rutgers, will try and push the Golden Panthers forward. Louisiana-Lafayette and North Texas are also looking for better things this season.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

1. TROY ▸ The Trojans parlayed their league crown into a strong recruiting season, snagging defensive lineman Dion Gales, receiver Kenard Burton and offensive tackle Jeremiah Wright among the haul.

2. ARKANSAS STATE ▸ Running back William Anderson, defensive end Stanley Porter and offensive tackle Paul Henry will add depth and talent to ASU's roster this season.

3. MIDDLE TENNESSEE ▸ Cornerback Ted Riley is the highlight of a solid group that also includes linebacker Landon Givers and defensive lineman SaCoby Carter.

4. NORTH TEXAS ▸ The Mean Green needed to restock their talent level and moved toward that aim with a class that includes running back Cameron Montgomery.

5. LOUISIANA-MONROE ▸ The Warhawks' depth will be aided by this year's group, especially the addition of quarterback Brice Beck and linebacker Alvin Jordan.

6. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL ▸ There's lots of talent in the area, so recruiting should be a strength. Look for cornerback Devin Parrish and all-purpose Marquis Rolle to help soon.

7. FLORIDA ATLANTIC ▸ Again, the fertile Florida fountain of talent helps here. Running back Xavier Stinson is a solid talent, as is defensive lineman Jarvis Givens.

8. LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE ▸ Defensive lineman Jermaine Rodgers may help quickly, as could linebacker Grant Fleming and offensive lineman Jaron Odom.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Omar Haugabook, Sr., Troy	DL	Josh Pinnick, Sr., Florida Atlantic
RB	Tyrell Fenroy, Jr., Louisiana-Lafayette	DL	Erik Walden, Sr., Middle Tennessee
RB	Calvin Dawson, Sr., Louisiana-Monroe	DL	Kenny Mainor, Jr., Troy
OL	Matt Mandich, Jr., Arkansas State	DL	Tavares Jones, Sr., Middle Tennessee
OL	Franklin Dunbar, r-Jr., Middle Tennessee	LB	Koby McKinnon, Sr., Arkansas State
OL	Kyle Cunningham, Sr., Louisiana-Monroe	LB	Boris Lee, So., Troy
OL	Jesse Newman, Sr., Louisiana-Lafayette	LB	Maurice Holman, Sr., North Texas
OL	Danny Franks, So., Troy	DB	Josh Thompson, Jr., Louisiana-Monroe
WR	Gary Banks, Sr., Troy	DB	Lionell Singleton, Sr., Florida International
WR	LaGregory Sapp, Jr., Lousiana-Monroe	DB	Damon Nickson, Sr., Middle Tennessee
TE	Zeek Zacharie, Jr., Louisiana-Monroe	DB	Tyrell Johnson, Sr., Arkansas State
PK	Drew Edminston, Jr., Louisiana-Lafayette	P	Truman Spencer, Jr., Florida International

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1. Western Kentucky, a future Sun Belt member playing as an independent in football this year because it is making the move from Division I-AA to I-A, will beat at least one of the three (Middle Tennessee, Troy and North Texas) conference teams it plays in 2007. The Hilltoppers won the Division I-AA title in 2002.

2. Troy will become the first Sun Belt team to win back-to-back New Orleans Bowl titles. The Trojans, who defeated Rice 41-17 in last year's New Orleans Bowl (which features the league's champion) will win the Sun Belt crown again and follow up with its second straight bowl win, the first two such victories in school history.

3. At least one Sun Belt team will claim a significant non-conference win this season. There are plenty of opportunities with league teams facing the likes of Texas, Florida, Arkansas, Penn State, Oklahoma, Louisville, South Carolina, Clemson and Oklahoma State—and that's just in the first two weeks. On one weekend, an underdog Sun Belt team will claim an upset.

4. Once again, two Sun Belt teams will receive bowl invitations. And in the only two previous times that has happened (2004, 2006), Troy will be one of those two. This may even be the first time the league picks up two bowl wins in the same season, which would represent a big step for the conference.

RATING THE PLAYERS

FASTEST RECEIVER
Frantz Simeon, Florida Atlantic

BEST HANDS
Gary Banks, WR, Troy

BEST PASSING QUARTERBACK
Omar Haugabook, Troy

BEST RUNNING QUARTERBACK
Kinsmon Lancaster, Louisiana-Monroe

MOST ELUSIVE RUNNING BACK
Calvin Dawson, Louisiana-Monroe

BEST INSTINCTS
Lionell Singleton, DB, Fla. International

BEST ATHLETE
Calvin Dawson, RB, Louisiana-Monroe

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Drew Edminston, PK, La.-Lafayette

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Damon Nickson, DB, Middle Tennessee

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Xavier Stinson, RB, Florida Atlantic

HARDEST HITTER
Erik Walden, DE, Middle Tennessee

BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER
Jamario Thomas, RB, North Texas

Troy, Ala. » 2006 Record: 8-5 » Sun Belt: 6-1

(beat Rice in the New Orleans Bowl, 41-17)

TROY TROJANS (((# 1

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Larry Blakeney
17th Year (127-65-1)
Career Record: 127-65-1
Stadium: Movie Gallery Stadium
Tickets: 877-878-9467
Capacity: 30,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.troytrojans.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	8
2005	4
2004	7
2003	6
2002	4

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@ARKANSAS	
S. 8	@ FLORIDA	
S. 14	**Oklahoma State**	
S. 22	@LA.-LAFAYETTE	42-28
S. 29	**Louisiana-Monroe**	24-19
O. 6	@FLA. INT'L	26-13
O. 20	**North Texas**	14-6
O. 27	@ARKANSAS ST.	26-33
N. 3	@GEORGIA	
N. 10	@W. KENTUCKY	
N. 20	**Middle Tennessee**	21-20
D. 1	**Florida Atlantic**	24-17

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

The Trojans played tough against big programs during their solid 2006 campaign. But this early-season match with the national champs will provide some real insight into where they stand.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **14**
Lettermen returning/lost: **51/20**

» OFFENSE

QB	17	Omar Haugabook (6-2, 220, Sr.)
HB	22	Kenny Cattouse (5-10, 207, Sr.)
LT	68	Will Chambliss (6-6, 292, Jr.)
LG	65	Chris Jamison (6-3, 285, Jr.)
C	75	Danny Franks (6-4, 320, r-Fr.)
RG	69	Steven Merkel (6-5, 298, So.)
RT	74	Dion Small (6-2, 280, Jr.)
WR	14	Andrew Davis (5-9, 165, So.)
WR	81	Mykeal Terry (5-10, 175, Jr.)
WR	1	Cornelius Williams (6-1, 180, So.)
WR	8	Gary Banks (6-1, 196, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

RE	58	Shawn Todd (6-3, 245, Sr.)
NT	93	Marcus Pittman (6-4, 290, Sr.)
DT	4	Chris Bradwell (6-5, 280, Sr.)
BAN	51	Kenny Mainor (6-4, 216, Jr.)
SLB	41	Romanique Lewis (6-2, 225, Sr.)
MLB	2	Boris Lee (6-2, 210, So.)
WLB	26	Marcus Richardson (6-3, 214, Sr.)
LCB	34	Leodis McKelvin (5-11, 187, Sr.)
RCB	13	Elbert Mack (5-10, 168, Jr.)
FS	6	Sherrod Martin (6-1, 187, Sr.)
SS	20	Terence Moore (6-3, 195, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	3	Greg Whibbs (5-10, 166, Jr.)
P	85	Adrian Vera (6-1, 201, Sr.)

What a difference an effective offense makes. Following a disappointing 2005 season where the Trojans finished seventh in total offense and sixth in scoring offense, Coach Larry Blakeney made a tough decision. He replaced several members of his staff, some of whom were close friends. That decision led to the hiring of Offensive Coordinator Tony Franklin, who immediately put in the spread offense.

All those decisions led to Troy winning its first Sun Belt championship last season, thanks to a three-win improvement in league wins. It also brought a New Orleans Bowl victory, the Trojans' first-ever Division I-A bowl win.

Quarterback Omar Haugabook, who directed Franklin's offense with style and success, was tabbed the league's Player of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year, not to mention the unanimous choice as Most Valuable Player of the New Orleans Bowl. He passed for 2,401 yards and 21 touchdowns a year ago, working around 17 interceptions. Haugabook also rushed for 313 yards and five more scores. He'll have favorite targets in Gary Banks (68 catches, 603 yards, 8 TDs) and Mykeal Terry (27, 477, 5) returning. Senior Kenny Cattouse rushed for a team-high 810 yards with four touchdowns last year.

Defensively, there are several players back who started at one point or another last season. The secondary should lead the unit, with Leodis McKelvin and Elbert Mack both back at the corners and juniors Sherrod Martin and Terence Moore handling the safety spots.

Boris Lee leads the linebacking corps, which is young. Marcus Richardson and Romanique Lewis will be in the starting lineup. Up front is more talent and depth, led by end Kenny Mainor and tackles Chris Bradwell and Marcus Pittman.

Jonesboro » 2006 Record: 6-6 » Sun Belt: 4-3

ARKANSAS STATE INDIANS (((# 2

PRESEASON RANK

Head Coach: Steve Roberts
6th Year (26-34)
Career Record: 26-34 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Indian Stadium
Tickets: 888-ASU-FANS
Capacity: 30,964
Official athletic Web site:
www.asuindians.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6
2005	6
2004	3
2003	5
2002	6

Conference Title Bowl National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@TEXAS	
S. 8	**Memphis**	26-23
S. 15	**SMU**	9-55
S. 22	@TENNESSEE	
O. 6	@ LA.-MONROE	10-6
O. 13	**La.-Lafayette**	13-28
O. 20	@Middle Tenn	10-38
O. 27	**Troy**	33-26
N. 3	**Fla. Int'l**	31-6
N. 10	@FLA. ATLANTIC	0-29
N. 17	**North Texas**	29-10
N. 24	@SO. MISS	

))) GAME TO WATCH (((

A close loss at home to the Warhawks began a slide from the top of the Sun Belt in Jonesboro last year. The Indians need to start the conference season right if they're planning to get back in the mix.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **20**
Lettermen returning/lost: **53/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	1	Corey Leonard, 6-1, 196, So.)
RB	2	Reggie Arnold, 5-9, 217, So.)
FB	34	Danny McNeal, 6-1, 227, r-Fr.)
LT	63	Matt Mandich, 6-3, 282, Jr.)
LG	60	Dominic Padrta, 6-3, 288, So.)
C	65	Heath Lockley, 6-0, 285, Sr.)
RG	58	Matt Reibe, 6-3, 300, Jr.)
RT	76	Kyle Koets, 6-4, 292, Jr.)
TE	85	David Johnson, 6-2, 268, Jr.)
WR	9	Levi Dejohnette, 6-0, 175, Sr.)
WR	6	Kevin Jones, 5-10, 169, Jr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	98	Alex Carrington, 6-5, 267, So.)
NT	91	Curtis Bonds, 6-4, 285, Sr.)
DT	79	Prince Hickman, 6-1, 289, Sr.)
DE	44	Brian Flagg, 6-2, 243, Jr.)
SLB	37	Koby McKinnon, 6-3, 215, Sr.)
MLB	48	Ben Owens, 6-2, 223, Jr.)
WLB	31	Matt Taylor, 6-3, 212, So.)
LCB	20	Montis Harrison, 5-10, 170, Sr.)
RCB	3	Darren Toney, 5-11, 185, Sr.)
FS	21	Khayyam Burns, 6-0, 184, Sr.)
SS	16	Tyrell Johnson, 6-1, 197, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	89	Josh Arauco, 5-9, 193, So.)
P	13	Brett Shrable, 6-2, 226, Jr.)

The team that won the league crown in 2005 fell back to a tie for third last year. The slight slip only served to make the coaching staff more aggressive, putting together perhaps its best recruiting class under Coach Steve Roberts and providing a strong dose of incentive.

The Indians have 20 starters returning (seven on offense and defense and six special-teams players), including safeties Tyrell Johnson and Khayyam Burns, quarterback Corey Leonard, running back Reggie Arnold and linebacker Koby McKinnon.

Opposing offenses have to put in extra work to try and figure out a way to attack Johnson and Burns, both All-Sun Belt performers. Johnson led ASU in tackles for the second consecutive year (63) but had just one interception and four pass breakups. Meanwhile, Burns picked off four passes, broke up seven others and was the team's No. 2 tackler last year.

Ends Brandon Rollins and Alex Carrington will be joined by Brian Flagg, who missed all of last season with an injury, giving strength to a position that was affected by injuries a year ago. Tackles Prince Hickman and Curtis Bonds are both solid, with McKinnon the only returning starter at linebacker,

Leonard split time with Travis Hewitt at quarterback through the first few games of last season, but claimed the starting job as his own down the stretch thanks to his ability to run and pass. Just a sophomore this season, he is expected in improve on his numbers from a year ago that included 1,321 passing yards for eight TDs and an equal number of interceptions, while rushing for 331 yards and two more scores. He'll have Arnold to help ease the big-play pressure. The sophomore rushed for 1,076 yards and four TDs last year. He earned the league's Freshman-of-the-Year honors and was a Freshman All-America pick.

» Murfreesboro

MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS

#3 »

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 7-6 » Sun Belt: 6-1

(lost to Central Michigan in the Motor City Bowl, 31-14)

Rick Stock still knows how to make an entrance. The former South Carolina recruiting coordinator and tight ends coach came within 2:19 of leading the Blue Raiders to an unblemished league record in his first season as their head coach. Instead, he and his team had to settle for sharing the crown with Troy at 6-1 in the SBC, an unbeaten league record on the road (4-0) and a berth in the Motor City Bowl.

That's going to be a tough act to follow, but the Blue Raiders have a chance. It won't be easy—three-year starting quarterback Clint Marks, All-Sun Belt running back Eugene Gross and all three starters at linebacker are gone.

However, six starters return on offense, including running back DeMarco McNair, who gained 586 yards rushing and scored seven touchdowns and picked up another 139 yards receiving. The emphasis will be on finding a new quarterback. Joe Craddock, a junior who appeared in eight games last season leads the list to replace Marks, but there is competition.

Receiver is strong with last year's top five pass catchers—Bobby Williams, Taron Henry, Jonathan Grigsby, playmaker Desmond Gee (he also had 62 carries last season) and McNair all back.

Six starters—safety Damon Nickson, corner Bradley Robinson, ends Erik Walden and Tavares Jones and tackles Trevor Jenkins and Wes Hofacker—return on defense.

Head Coach: Rick Stockstill, 2nd Year (7-6)
Career Record: 7-6
Stadium: Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium **Capacity:** 30,788
Tickets: 888-YES-MTSU
Official athletic Web site: www.goblueraiders.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	@FLA. ATLANTIC
S. 6	@LOUISVILLE
S. 15	@LSU
S. 20	**Western Kentucky**
S. 29	**Fla. Int'l**
O. 6	**Virginia**
O. 13	@MEMPHIS
O. 20	**Arkansas State**
O. 27	@NORTH TEXAS
N. 3	@LA.-MONROE
N. 10	**La.-Lafayette**
N.20	**@ TROY**

GAME TO WATCH

The Blue Raiders came within one point of the Trojans last year, and the Sun Belt championship could again come down to the final minutes of the season.

» Monroe

LOUISIANA-MONROE WARHAWKS

#4 »

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 4-8 » Sun Belt: 3-4

There seems to be a feeling the Warhawks are "almost there" in challenging for the Sun Belt crown. Last season, they won three of their final four games after losing seven straight. If the young team that took its lumps a year ago gained enough experience from the season, there's a chance it can make a run this year.

Coach Charlie Weatherbie oversees a roster that includes nine seniors among the projected 22 starters, with seven juniors and six sophomores. Senior running back Calvin Dawson returns after averaging 100.8 yards per game and scoring 11 rushing touchdowns last year. He is the sparkplug for the ULM offense. Junior wide receiver LaGregory Sapp (43 catches, 3 TDs, 796 yards) is back, along with junior tight end Zeek Zacharie.

The offense will look to Kinsmon Lancaster to take over at quarterback, with Trey Revell as the backup. Frank Goodin and Tay Ogletree will back up Dawson at running back with Sapp, Josh Boudreaux, Darrell McNeal, Marty Humphrey, Aaron Stringfellow and J.J. McCoy leading the way at receiver. The Warhawks led the league in passing offense, total offense and turnover margin, all good statistical categories to head up. But they were also last in total defense, giving up almost 350 yards a game.

Defense is the area where the most progress must be made. Alaric Coleman and Jameson Jordan will start at the ends with David Cooper and Kendall Moulton inside. Jeremy Moll, Cardia Jackson and James Wright are the linebackers.

Head Coach: Charlie Weatherbie, 5th Year (15-31)
Career Record: 60-95
Stadium: Malone Stadium **Capacity:** 30,427
Tickets: 318-342-3ULM
Official athletic Web site: www.ulmathletics.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 30	**Tulsa**
S. 8	@CLEMSON
S. 15	@TEXAS A&M
S. 29	@TROY
O.6	**Arkansas State**
O. 13	@NORTH TEXAS
O. 20	**Fla. Int'l**
O. 27	@FLA. ATLANTIC
N. 3	**Middle Tennessee**
N. 10	**Grambling State**
N. 17	@ALABAMA
N. 24	@LA.-LAFAYETTE

GAME TO WATCH

If the Warhawks are as close as they'd like to think, they need to play better in the Sun Belt. A big conference win in front of the home crowd would set the right tone.

» Boca Raton

FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

#5 »

PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 5-7 » Sun Belt: 4-3

Take a quick glance at the Owls' roster and one thing jumps out: there are a lot of redshirt sophomores, juniors and seniors playing this year. That's by design. Head coach and program architect Howard Schnellenberger has planned for this season by holding back some of the players he has signed over the past few seasons. The success of that plan should begin to show itself this year and in the next couple of seasons ahead.

The only first-time starters on offense will likely be left tackle Lavoris Williams and fullback Willie Rose. The rest of the starting lineup has been around the Sun Belt block before. That includes quarterback Rusty Smith, a redshirt sophomore who threw for 1,285 yards and six touchdowns last year, and shared time with Sean Clayton (926 yards, 5 TDs), who also returns. However, Smith has established himself as the starter.

Smith's favorite target will be Frantz Simeon (35 catches, 590 yards, 1 TD). Mike Wilds is listed as the starter at tight end, but the backup, Jason Harmon, was the Owls' No. 2 receiver last year. Charles Pierce, FAU's leading rusher last year (756 yards, 5 TDs) is also back, with Rose at fullback.

The defense boasts the greatest experience, with three seniors and six juniors in the starting lineup that has just one newcomer, redshirt-freshman cornerback Tavious Polo. Linebacker Cergile Sincere and right end Josh Pinnick are the leaders.

Head Coach: Howard Schnellenberger, 7th Year (33-37)
Career Record: 133-114-3
Stadium: Lockhart Stadium **Capacity:** 20,500
Tickets: 866-FAU-OWLS
Official athletic Web site: www.fausports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.1	**Middle Tennessee**
S. 8	@OKLAHOMA ST.
S. 15	**Minnesota***
S. 22	@NORTH TEXAS
S. 29	@KENTUCKY
O. 6	**South Florida**
O. 20	@LA.-LAFAYETTE
O. 27	**Louisiana-Monroe**
N. 10	**Arkansas State**
N. 17	@FLORIDA
N. 24	@FLA. INT'L
D. 1	@TROY

** at Miami, FL*

GAME TO WATCH

If this is the year the Owls have been waiting for, they should be anxious to get to work against a strong Sun Belt foe in the opener.

» Lafayette

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS

« #6 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 6-6 » Sun Belt: 3-4

If the Ragin' Cajuns are to make a run at the Sun Belt crown this year, they must achieve some balance. Last season, they led the league in rushing offense (188.7 yards per game) but finished seventh in passing offense (129.2). They were fourth in scoring offense, but fifth in scoring defense. They were second in rushing defense, but sixth in passing defense. It seems for every category Lafayette excels in, there's another where it needs improvement. As a result, the Cajuns finished 6-6 a year ago and were 3-4 in league play. Seven offensive starters return this season, with five back on defense.

Quarterback Michael Desormeaux serves as an example of Lafayette's good news-bad news theme. The junior, who takes over for Jerry Babb, has shown the ability to run with the football but hasn't proven to be a passer in limited action. His rushing ability will complement running back Tyrell Fenroy (1,197 yards, 10 TDs), but Desormeaux has to prove he'll be able to hit receivers Derrick Smith (551 yards) and Jason Chery (222), the team's top two receivers a year ago.

Several starting spots on defense must be filled, though again, there is talent in place. End Rodney Hardeway and tackle Korey Raymond are back, as is linebacker Brenton Burkhalter, cornerback Kyle Ward and free safety Lamar Morgan. Burkhalter was the team's leading tackler last year with 61 stops, while Morgan had 53 and Ward 42.

Head Coach: Rickey Bustle, 6th Year (23-35)
Career Record: 23-35
Stadium: Cajun Field **Capacity:** 31,000
Tickets: 337-265-2100
Official athletic Web site: www.ragincajuns.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	@SO. CAROLINA
S. 8	**Ohio**
S. 15	**McNeese State**
S. 22	**Troy**
S. 29	@UCF
O. 6	**North Texas**
O. 13	@ARKANSAS ST.
O. 20	**Florida Atlantic**
N. 3	@TENNESSEE
N. 10	@MIDDLE TENN.
N. 17	@FLA. INT'L
N. 24	Louisiana-Monroe

GAME TO WATCH

Rivalry games are usually a good placebo for discouraged fans. Winning the "Battle of the Bayou" could ease some of the pain in store for 2007.

» Miami

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN PANTHERS

« #7 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 0-12 » Sun Belt: 0-7

A new era in FIU football begins on Sept. 1 when new Coach Mario Cristobal leads the Golden Panthers for the first time. The former University of Miami assistant has brought enthusiasm to a program in need of a spark. However, he'll need more.

The Golden Panthers lost every game they played a year ago and finished last in the Sun Belt for scoring offense, scoring defense, rushing offense, pass efficiency, first downs, penalties, red zone offense and third-down conversions. As if that wasn't enough, even though eight offensive and seven defensive starters return, that number does not include quarterback Josh Padrick, wide receiver Chandler Williams, linebacker James Black or defensive end Antwan Barnes.

Offensively, the Golden Panthers simply must be more effective and productive. The strength of the unit this year will be its line, which returns intact. Also returning to starting spots are fullback John Ellis, running back A'Mod Ned and wide receiver Ashlyn Parker. Ned was the team's leading rusher, but his total was just 445 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Ellis was the No. 3 rusher a year ago with 42 yards.

Quarterback is the position of greatest interest and it's a starting position still up for grabs. The leader of a long list of contenders would appear to be sophomore Paul McCall, the only player among seven candidates who has any college game experience.

Head Coach: Mario Cristobal, 1st Year
Stadium: FIU Stadium **Capacity:** 17,000
Tickets: 866-FIU-GAME
Official athletic Web site: www.fiusports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	@PENN STATE
S. 8	**Maryland**
S. 15	@MIAMI (FL)
S. 22	@KANSAS
S. 29	@MIDDLE TENN
O. 6	**Troy**
O. 20	@LA.-MONROE
O. 27	@ARKANSAS
N. 3	@ARKANSAS ST.
N. 17	Louisiana-Lafayette
N. 24	**Florida Atlantic**
D. 1	**North Texas**

GAME TO WATCH

Mario Cristobal won't have to do much to bring about improvement in his first year as coach. After a tough early schedule, the Golden Panthers begin a three-game home stretch that might offer their only chance to better last year's winless mark.

» Denton

NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN

« #8 PRESEASON RANK

2006 Record: 3-9 » Sun Belt: 2-5

My, how the mighty have fallen. The Mean Green owned the Sun Belt when the league first began, but has stumbled in recent seasons. It is now Coach Todd Dodge's job to return the program back to the top of the league. North Texas tied for last in the league with Florida Atlantic two seasons ago and finished next-to-last in 2006, saved from the cellar by Florida International's 0-7 mark.

Returning players and several newcomers must join Dodge in the team's quest to re-enter the Sun Belt title chase. On offense, running back Jamario Thomas, who led the nation in rushing as a freshman, needs to show that kind of form again, something he hasn't been able to do recently. A year ago he rushed for just 668 yards and two scores, with an average of just 60.7 yards per game.

He is joined by only four other returning starters on offense: quarterback Daniel Meager, linemen Chad Rose and Adam Venegas and wide receiver Brandon Jackson. However, Meager's job is still up for grabs, with Matt Phillips and Woody Wilson also in the mix. The trio all earned starts a year ago, each with spotty success.

The story on defense is more promising. The Mean Green welcomes all but one starter from a year ago back this season. Of course, it's a unit that finished sixth in total defense, seventh in scoring defense and fifth in rushing defense.

Still, there is experience. The secondary returns in its entirety, led by cornerback Dominique Green.

Head Coach: Todd Dodge, 1st year
Stadium: Fouts Field **Capacity:** 30,500
Tickets: 800-UNT-2366
Official athletic Web site: www.meangreensports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 1	@OKLAHOMA
S. 8	@SMU
S. 22	**Florida Atlantic**
S. 29	@ARKANSAS
O. 6	@LA.-LAFAYETTE
O. 13	**Louisiana-Monroe**
O. 20	@TROY
O. 27	**MIDDLE TENNESSEE**
N. 10	**Navy**
N. 17	@ARKANSAS ST.
N. 24	**Western Kentucky**
D. 1	@FLA. INT'L

GAME TO WATCH

Todd Dodge's "spread-the-wealth" offense gets its first real chance to shine, and the home crowd will be on hand to judge whether the Mean Green are back on track.

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

2006 Record: 10-3 » *(lost to LSU in the Sugar Bowl, 41-14)*

Notre Dame, Ind. **Stadium:** Notre Dame Stadium (80,795) **Tickets:** 574-631-7356

QB › Jimmy Clausen

All Irish eyes set on incoming frosh QB Clausen this fall

Quarterback derbies are rare for the Notre Dame football program. So rare, in fact, the last one happened more than a decade ago by accident.

Third-year Coach Charlie Weis brings his Irish into the 2007 preseason without a designated starter at quarterback to replace Brady Quinn, who had been a fixture for four years.

Four candidates—sophomores Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer, junior Evan Sharpley and Jimmy Clausen, a freshman phenom who enrolled in January—battled throughout the spring without giving Weis much ammunition to make a clear-cut decision.

Speculation, conjecture, gut instincts and necessity will pare the list down to two—probably Jones and Clausen—for the start of preseason workouts. Would Weis consider splitting the duties, much like Florida did with Chris Leak and Tim Tebow in 2006?

"Well, I can't say completely no to that," Weis says. "I can't see myself playing one guy half the game and the other guy half the game. But if you're asking me if I'd ever rule out playing more than one in a game, I wouldn't rule that out."

Jones' stature (6-foot-4, 210 pounds), athletic nature and demeanor—"I'm a social bug, more of a people person"—could give him an edge. But Clausen decided to skip his high school prom in favor of spring practice and appears eager for the spotlight. He arrived on campus for his commitment last spring in a stretch limo, flashing his high school state championship rings. All those rings and a buck-50 will buy him an espresso at The Huddle coffee shop on campus these days.

Notre Dame faced a similar scenario (sort of) in 1993. The Rick Mirer era had just ended, and incoming freshman Ron Powlus garnered the same level of hype and media attention that Clausen is receiving. The week before the season opener, Powlus, who had been billed by then-coach Lou Holtz as the starter since he was recruited, sustained a broken clavicle.

That ended his season and opened the door for Kevin McDougal and Paul Failla to spar for the job. Holtz ended up using Failla in short-yardage and goal-line situations and McDougal the rest of the time in what turned out to be a near-miss for the national title.

That level of success might be out of reach for a retooled Notre Dame unit that will have to deal with critical issues at other positions as well.

"Tradition never graduates," is the mantra Weis has been repeating to keep his "green" players from using their inexperience as an excuse.

Besides the big shoes waiting to be filled after Quinn's departure, the Irish have plenty of problems to solve on offense if they are to make their third BCS appearance under Weis in as many years. This year's unit will be hard-pressed to match the 31 points and 390 total yards the 2006 squad averaged a game.

Receivers Jeff Samardzija and Rhema McKnight are both gone, leaving in their wake smurfs David Grimes (5-10, 174) and George West (5-8, 188) and lanky Robby Parris (6-3, 201) as the top targets for whoever is throwing the ball. They've all had to work on the physical aspect of playing the position.

"I pretty much live and die by playing hard and playing with heart," West says. "A lot of colleges expect you to come out and show them something because you're a smaller receiver. I always felt that I always had the ability with my speed and quickness to make plays."

Parris says: "It's a lot different than high school. The corners and safeties are a lot more physical They're as strong as you are. It's harder to get open when they're playing press coverage."

The offensive-line situation will also give Weis some sleepless nights.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	3
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	5

» **Head Coach: Charlie Weis**
3rd Year (19-6) Career Record: 19-6

Official athletic Web site: www.und.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	**Georgia Tech**	14-10
S. 8	@PENN STATE	41-17
S. 15	@MICHIGAN	21-47
S. 22	**Michigan State**	40-37
S. 29	@PURDUE	35-21
O. 6	@UCLA	20-17
O. 13	» BOSTON COLLEGE	
O. 20	**USC**	24-44
N. 3	**Navy**	38-14
N. 10	**Air Force**	39-17
N. 17	**Duke**	
N. 24	@STANFORD	31-10

GAME TO WATCH

The "Holy War" wages on after a two-year hiatus. The Eagles take a four-game winning streak into South Bend in a matchup that promises to be as close as ever.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	10	C, B
2005	9	C, B
2004	6	C, B
2003	5	
2002	10	C, B

C CONFERENCE TITLE B BOWL N NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **10**
Lettermen returning/lost: **30/28**

» OFFENSE		
QB	7	Jimmy Clausen (6-3, 207, Fr.)
FB	44	Asaph Schwapp (6-0, 255, Jr.)
TB	26	Travis Thomas (6-0, 218, Sr.)
LT	72	Paul Duncan (6-7, 292, Jr.)
LG	55	Eric Olsen (6-4, 300, So.)
C	78	John Sullivan (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RG	73	Matt Carufel (6-5, 295, So.)
RT	74	Sam Young (6-8, 315, So.)
TE	89	John Carlson (6-6, 259, Sr.)
WR	19	George West (5-8, 188, So.)
WR	11	David Grimes (5-10, 174, Jr.)
» DEFENSE		
LE	98	Trevor Laws (6-1, 295, Sr.)
NT	96	Pat Kuntz (6-2, 272, Jr.)
RE	57	Dwight Stephenson (6-2, 257, Sr.)
LB	90	John Ryan (6-5, 244, So.)
LB	52	Joe Brockington (6-2, 235. Sr.)
LB	40	Maurice Crum (6-0, 225, Sr.)
LB	49	Toryan Smith (6-1, 244, So.)
CB	20	Terrail Lambert (5-11, 191, Sr.)
CB	22	Ambrose Wooden (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	27	David Bruton (6-2, 202, Jr.)
SS	9	Tom Zbikowski (6-0, 210, Sr.)
» SPECIALISTS		
PK	33	Nate Whitaker (5-9, 165, So.)
P	17	Geoff Price (6-3, 196, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

THE NEXT BIG THING

» JIMMY CLAUSEN, QB

In Clausen, the Irish have their most anticipated recruit since Ron Powlus, who's ironically the new QB coach in South Bend. "The Kid" is confident in a wide-open race under center.

Senior center John Sullivan may be the best in the nation and right tackle Sam Young, forced into the role as a freshman last year, will be better this season. But beyond that, there's no experience.

Junior Paul Duncan (6-7, 292) seems to be the answer at the all-important position of left tackle, while sophomores Eric Olsen (6-4, 300) and Matt Carufel (6-5, 295) appear to be the leading contenders at guard.

It wasn't an accident that last year's leading rusher, Darius Walker, decided to bypass his final year of eligibility to play in the NFL. He knew that with the stable of young running backs returning this season, he wouldn't come anywhere near the amount of work he received last season (255, 1,267 yards, 7 TDs).

Guys like fifth-year senior Travis Thomas, who spent time at linebacker last season, sophomore James Aldridge (37 carries, 142 yards) and early-enrolled freshman Armando Allen are too good to keep inactive.

Fullback Asaph Schwapp, a junior, is back primarily as a blocker, while senior tight end John Carlson has a chance to improve on his 2006 numbers (47 catches, 634 yards, 4 TDs).

Recruiting on the defensive side of the ball has been one shortcomings of the first two years of the Weis regime. Commitments heading into the third year have started to stem that tide of frustration, but the 2007 Irish defense won't feel the impact. In fact, impact players may be at a premium.

The Irish defense yielded about 24 points and 340 yards a game last season. Offensive explosions by Southern Cal and LSU to end the season were bad enough to get Defensive Coordinator Rick Minter fired.

Corwin Brown has come over from the NFL after serving three seasons with the New York Jets to try and stop the bleeding as the new coordinator. Brown played at the University of Michigan before eight seasons in the NFL.

Fifth-year safety Tom Zbikowski (79 tackles), who has embarked on a professional boxing career while at Notre Dame, will be the emotional leader of the defense. Senior cornerback Terrail Lambert (40 tackles, 3 INTs) came up with some big plays, including a critical interception return for a touchdown in Notre Dame's amazing comeback win over Michigan State.

Senior Trevor Laws (62 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks) will be a mainstay at left end, while senior Dwight Stephenson is a first-time starter on the right side. Junior Pat Kuntz and sophomore Chris Stewart will battle for playing time at nose tackle.

Senior Maurice Crum (100 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, 4 sacks) is a defensive captain and dependable component at inside linebacker. Alongside him will be senior Joe Brockington (59 tackles). Senior Anthony Vernaglia and sophomore John Ryan are the top contenders to nail down starting jobs at outside linebacker.

Aside from Zbikowski and Lambert in the secondary, safety David Bruton (18 tackles) and corner Ambrose Wooden (21) have been tested under fire.

Senior Geoff Price (50 punts, 45.4-yard average) could be one of the best punters in the nation this year. *—Al Lesar*

RECRUITING REPORT

All-everything quarterback **Jimmy Clausen** (6-3, 207), who earned multiple national prep Player-of-the-Year honors in 2006, headlines a quality class of 18 recruits ranked No. 10 nationally by *Street & Smith's*.

Clausen never started a losing game at Oaks Christian in Westlake Village, Calif., and enrolled at Notre Dame in January to get an early start on his bid to replace graduated Brady Quinn.

Clausen, who had brothers Rick and Casey precede him as college quarterbacks, ended his prep career with gaudy statistics: 10,764 passing yards and a state-record 146 touchdown passes with only 20 interceptions.

While Clausen is the "name" in the Irish recruiting class, he's certainly not the only touted newcomer in the Notre Dame fold.

Two running backs receive high marks: **Armando Allen** (5-9, 190) from Hialeah, Fla., and **Robert Hughes** (5-11, 225) of Chicago.

A highly recruited defensive back was **Gary Gray** (5-11, 180) from Columbia, S.C. Wide receiver **Duval Kamara** (6-5, 210) from Hoboken, N.J., reminds some observers of another New Jersey prep product, former USC wideout Dwayne Jarrett.

On the defensive side of the ball, the most touted newcomers after Gray are end **Kerry Neal** (6-3, 232) from North Carolina and linebacker **Brian Smith** (6-2, 225) of Overland Park, Kan.

Tight end **Mike Ragone** (6-4, 225) from Cherry Hill, N.J., and two-way lineman **Emeka Nwankwo** (6-3, 285) fit into the future plans of Coach Charlie Weis and staff.

Two prospects recruited as athletes will be tested at multiple positions—**Golden Tate** (5-11, 175) from Hendersonville, Tenn., and **Steve Paskorz** (6-1, 215) of Pittsburgh. Tate was a do-it-all, skill-position athlete in high school and Paskorz a running back/linebacker.

—Doug Huff

2006 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	NOTRE DAME	OPP
SCORING	403	310
Points Per Game	31.0	23.8
FIRST DOWNS	280	241
Rushing	103	110
Passing	157	111
Penalty	20	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1634	1779
Yards gained rushing	1941	2160
Yards lost rushing	307	381
Rushing Attempts	423	468
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.8
Average Per Game	125.7	136.8
TDs Rushing	14	11
PASSING YARDAGE	3433	2644
Att-Comp-Int	471-290-7	339-187-11
Average Per Pass	7.3	7.8
Average Per Catch	11.8	14.1
Average Per Game	264.1	203.4
TDs Passing	37	24
TOTAL OFFENSE	5067	4423
Total Plays	894	807
Average Per Play	5.7	5.5
Average Per Game	389.8	340.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	45-965	59-1177
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	23-169	21-242
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	11-100	7-146
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.4	19.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.3	11.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.1	20.9
FUMBLES-LOST	13-7	14-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	87-695	79-695
Average Per Game	53.5	53.5
PUNTS-YARDS	51-2309	59-2449
Average Per Punt	45.3	41.5
Net punt average	37.8	35.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:35	29:25
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/177	55/160
3rd-Down Pct	40%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	19/33	7/19
4th-Down Pct	58%	37%
SACKS BY-YARDS	31-230	31-216
MISC YARDS	106	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	55	40
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	8-13	12-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	49-54 91%	34-39 87%
ATTENDANCE	565565	278040
Games/Avg Per Game	7/80795	4/69510
Neutral Site Games		2/74816

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Notre Dame	92	141	89	81	403
Opponents	95	86	55	74	310

2006 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Brady Quinn	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	146.66	467-289-7	61.9	3426	37	263.5

Evan Sharpley	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	8	79.40	2-1-0	50.0	7	0	0.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Darius Walker	13	255	1267	5.0	7	97.5
James Aldridge	7	37	142	3.8	0	20.3
Travis Thomas	11	13	78	6.0	2	7.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jeff Samardzija	13	78	1017	13.0	12	78.2
Rhema McKnight	13	67	907	13.5	15	69.8
Darius Walker	13	56	391	7.0	1	30.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Maurice Crum	13	47	53	100
Chinedum Ndukwe	13	58	40	98
Tom Zbikowski	12	44	35	79

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Victor Abiamiri	13	10.5	73
Derek Landri	13	7.0	53
Maurice Crum	13	4.0	38

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Mike Richardson	4	21	5.2	0
Terrail Lambert	3	27	9.0	1
Chinedum Ndukwe	2	52	26.0	0

NAVY MIDSHIPMEN

2006 Record: 9-4 *(lost to Boston College in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 25-24)*

Annapolis, Md. **Stadium:** Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000) **Tickets:** 800-US4-NAVY

Midshipmen know how to run, but key to their season will be stopping the pass

Before the first football is kicked, before the first touchdown is scored, Navy has its bowl bid already locked up.

Sort of.

Six victories separate the Midshipmen from an appearance in the Poinsettia Bowl Dec. 20 in San Diego against the No. 2 pick from the Mountain West Conference. Two years ago, Navy's 51-30 win over Colorado State drew about 36,000 for the bowl's inaugural game. That performance had a lot to do with this year's early invitation.

Last year, the Midshipmen lost a thriller to Boston College, 25-24, in the Meineke Car Bowl.

According to Coach Paul Johnson, back for his sixth season at Navy, that loss to BC shouldn't have an impact on what to expect now.

"You just move on," Johnson says. "It's a different team. You think about it after the game, but after that it's over."

The next chapter is ready to start with plenty of reason for optimism, even though the Midshipmen graduated a very talented class from a year ago.

"It will be interesting to see," Johnson says, when asked how this team will take shape. "That's why you play every year. Each team takes on their own identity and we'll see what identity this team takes. I think there is some talent; it's just a question if they have the same desire and work ethic."

Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada, the quarterback who proved he could run Navy's high-octane, option-oriented offense with precision last season, is back with plenty of weapons at his disposal.

Navy, annually among the best rushing teams in the country, lived up to the reputation last season by averaging 327 yards a game. Kaheaku-Enhada (507 rushing yards, 10 TDs), Adam Ballard (792, 3), Reggie Campbell (706, 5) and Shun White (578, 5) give variety to the Midshipmen attack.

Kaheaku-Enhada, while playing in 11 games, threw just 48 passes, completing 23 for 384 yards and five touchdowns. He had one intercepted. Campbell is the leading receiver back after catching 13 passes for 244 yards and two touchdowns. Seldom-targeted Tyree Barnes (6 catches, 105 yards, 2 TDs) and OJ Washington (3, 50, 1) should be much more involved in the offense than a year ago.

Navy's offensive line is stocked with upperclassmen. Seniors Antron Harper (center), Josh Meek (left tackle) and Ben Gabbard (right guard) are likely starters, along with juniors Andrew McGinn (right tackle) and Anthony Gaskins (left guard).

Losing nine defensive starters from last season would give any coach reason for concern. Johnson recognizes that was a special group that limited the opposition to 20 points and 117 rushing yards per contest, while giving up 219 through the air.

"It's very similar to two years ago when we lost a bunch of guys on offense, so the young guys over there are going to have to step up in a hurry," Johnson says of filling the defensive holes.

How green will the Midshipmen be on defense this season? None of Navy's top eight tacklers returns. Cornerback Rashawn King (50 tackles), who ranked ninth among the team's tacklers last year, is back along with free safety Jeff Deliz (25 tackles, 3 for loss).

Chris Kuhar-Pitters, Nate Frazier and either Casey Herbert or Michael Walsh will be the down linemen in Navy's 3-4 alignment. Linebackers Matt Humiston, Dell Robinson, Clint Sovie, Irv Spencer and Matt Wimsatt are quality athletes.

King and Deliz will be joined by Greg Thrasher, Jesse Iwuji and Blake Carter as possibilities to solve the air-assault crisis that plagued the Midshipmen last year.

The kicking game is solid. Punter Greg Veteto averaged 38.1 yards last season, while placekicker Matt Harmon hit eight of 11 field-goal tries. He also connected on 37 of 38 extra points.

The Commander-in-Chief Trophy, annually awarded to the winner of the Army, Navy and Air Force competition each year, has been a resident of Annapolis the past four seasons.

—*Al Lesar*

THE NEXT BIG THING

IRV SPENCER, ILB

Started three games last year (16 tackles), and will become a mainstay at the inside spot this season. Spencer's speed and size will help him anchor the Midshipmen's linebacking unit.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

Head Coach: Paul Johnson
6th Year (37-25) Career Record: 37-25 (Division I-A)

Official athletic Web site: www.navysports.com

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
A. 31	@TEMPLE	42-6
S. 7	@RUTGERS	0-34
S. 15	**Ball State**	
S. 22	**Duke**	38-13
S.29	**AIR FORCE**	24-17
O. 10	@PITTSBURGH	
O. 20	**Wake Forest**	
O. 27	**Delaware**	
N. 3	@NOTRE DAME	14-38
N. 10	@NORTH TEXAS	
N. 17	**Northern Illinois**	
D. 1	@ARMY*	26-14

GAME TO WATCH

The Midshipmen have seen smooth sailing against the rest of the military of late, but the team lost some serious talent. The Falcons have a chance to knock them off and, as always, are eager to do so.

** at Baltimore, MD*

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	9
2005	8
2004	10
2003	8
2002	2

CONFERENCE TITLE · BOWL · NATIONAL TITLE

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **11**
Lettermen returning/lost: **26/35**

OFFENSE

QB	10	Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada (5-11, 194, Jr.)
FB	22	Adam Ballard (6-1, 236, Sr.)
SB	7	Reggie Campbell (5-6, 168, Sr.)
SB	28	Zerbin Singleton (5-8, 164, Sr.)
LT	53	Josh Meek (6-1, 274, Sr.)
LG	72	Anthony Gaskins (6-1, 281, Jr.)
C	63	Antron Harper (5-11, 272, Sr.)
RG	74	Ben Gabbard (6-4, 297, Sr.)
RT	75	Andrew McGinn (6-1, 255, Jr.)
WR	80	OJ Washington (5-10, 188, Sr.)
WR	89	Tyree Barnes (6-2, 188, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LE	92	Chris Kuhar-Pitters (6-2, 258, Sr.)
NG	99	Nate Frazier (6-3, 285, So.)
RE	38	Michael Walsh (6-2, 239, Jr.)
OLB	9	Matt Humiston (5-11, 207, Sr.)
ILB	44	Clint Sovie (5-11, 201, Jr.)
ILB	55	Irv Spencer (6-0, 238, Sr.)
OLB	54	Matt Wimsatt (6-1, 216, Sr.)
LCB	18	Rashawn King (6-0, 190, Jr.)
RCB	20	Greg Thrasher (5-8, 181, Sr.)
ROV	1	Blake Carter (5-11, 188, So.)
FS	17	Jeff Deliz (5-11, 195, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	19	Matt Harmon (5-10, 182, Jr.)
P	31	Greg Veteto (6-1, 178, Sr.)

ARMY BLACK KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Stan Brock
1st Year
Stadium: Michie Stadium
Tickets: 877-TIX-ARMY
Capacity: 40,000
Official athletic Web site:
www.goarmysports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	3
2005	4
2004	2
2003	0
2002	1

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@AKRON*	
S. 8	**Rhode Island**	
S. 15	@WAKE FOREST	
S. 22	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
S. 29	**Temple**	
O. 6	**Tulane**	28-42
O. 13	@C. MICHIGAN	
O. 20	@GEORGIA TECH	
N. 3	@AIR FORCE	7-43
N. 9	**Rutgers**	
N. 17	**Tulsa**	
D. 1	**NAVY****	14-26

» GAME TO WATCH «

Nothing would say "fresh start" like a strong showing against the Midshipmen. Five straight lackluster losses have put the Cadets behind 49-51 in the series.

** at Cleveland, OH*
*** at Baltimore, MD*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **15**
Lettermen returning/lost: **44/28**

» OFFENSE

QB	10	Carson Williams (6-3, 210, So.)
RB	23	Wesley McMahand (5-5, 177, Jr.)
FB	33	Mike Viti (5-10, 242, Sr.)
LT	75	Ray Zelenak (6-2, 256, Sr.)
LG	79	Brandon Cox (6-3, 297, Jr.)
C	64	Trey Miranne (6-0, 273, Sr.)
RG	74	Connor Wicklund (6-3, 284, Sr.)
RT	76	Mike Lemming (6-3, 281, Jr.)
TE	80	Justin Larson (6-5, 228, Sr.)
WR	36	Damion Hunter (5-10, 166, So.)
WR	5	Jeremy Trimble (6-0, 219, Sr.)

» DEFENSE

DE	95	Brandon Thompson (6-3, 261, Sr.)
DT	72	Ted Bentler (6-3, 251, So.)
DT	66	Tony Fusco (6-1, 303, Sr.)
DE	88	Victor Ugenyi (6-3, 262, So.)
SLB	45	Charlie Rockwood (6-3, 228, Sr.)
MLB	44	Brian Chmura (6-0, 224, Sr.)
WLB	49	Frank Scappaticci (6-1, 222, Jr.)
FCB	36	John Laird (5-10, 185, Sr.)
BCB	25	Kevin Opoku (5-11, 183, Sr.)
FS	19	Jordan Murray (6-0, 204, Sr.)
SS	13	Caleb Campbell (6-2, 224, Sr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	1	Owen Tolson (6-2, 201, Sr.)
P	1	Owen Tolson (6-2, 201, Sr.)

Sixteen years in the NFL trenches may not have fully prepared Stan Brock for the battles he's likely to face this season as Army's new coach.

The Black Knights are coming off a 3-9 campaign that was followed by the departure of Bobby Ross and the elevation of Brock, who had been offensive line coach the past three seasons.

For starters, Brock must find a way to turn around the numbers from a year ago—the Black Knights generated 19 points and 261 yards on offense per game while yielding 28 points and 355 yards on defense.

Carson Williams heads into the preseason having unseated David Pevoto as Army's starting quarterback, but Brock's final verdict on the two won't be made until the week of the opener at Akron Sept. 1.

Pevoto completed 106 of 193 passes for 1,012 yards and six touchdowns with 14 interceptions last year. While playing in seven games as a rookie, Williams hit on 56 of 98 passes for 577 yards and four touchdowns with 10 picks.

Last year's top three running backs—Wesley McMahand (654 yards, 4 TDs), Tony Moore (399, 5) and Mike Viti (239, 1)—return to give Army some stability on the ground.

Receiver Jeremy Trimble (52 receptions, 534 yards, 2 TDs) will join Viti as an offensive co-captain for the Black Knights this season. Look for Damion Hunter to be one of the surprises of the receiving corps.

Retooling the Army offensive line will be an emphasis for Brock. He knows the territory, though, having toiled there for 16 years in the NFL.

Defensively, the Black Knights will sorely miss the production of graduated Cameron Craig, who collected 17 tackles for loss last season. That role could be assumed by defensive tackle Ted Bentler. "There's nobody who goes out there with a stronger motor than Ted," Brock says.

WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPERS

Head Coach: David Elson
5th Year (30-17)
Career Record: 30-17
Stadium: L.T. Smith Stadium
Tickets: 800-5-BIG-RED
Capacity: 17,500
Official athletic Web site:
www.wkusports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2006	6*
2005	6*
2004	9*
2003	9*
2002	12 *

* Division I-AA · I-AA National Title

2007 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'06 RESULT
S. 1	@FLORIDA	
S. 8	**West Virginia Tech**	
S. 15	**Eastern Kentucky**	21-26
S. 20	@MIDDLE TENN.	
S. 29	@BOWLING GREEN	
O. 13	@BALL STATE	
O. 20	@INDIANA STATE	41-3
O. 27	**N.C. Central**	
N. 3	@CHATTANOOGA	28-21
N. 10	**TROY**	
N. 17	**Morehead State**	
N. 24	@NORTH TEXAS	

» GAME TO WATCH «

The Hilltoppers' home crowd gets is first taste of I-A action when Troy makes the trip to Bowling Green. The fans should provide a much-needed boost.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: **16**
Lettermen returning/lost: **40/18**

» OFFENSE

QB	3	David Wolke (6-2, 200, Jr.)
FB	40	Jared Johnson (6-1, 235, Jr.)
RB	34	Andrew McCloud (5-8, 195, So.)
LT	67	Chris McConnell (6-6, 310, Jr.)
LG	70	Cody Hughes (6-1, 300, So.)
C	72	Derrick Elder (6-2, 300, r-Fr.)
RG	64	Andrew Campbell (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RT	55	Terrance Houston (6-4, 275, Sr.)
TE	88	Jared Holland (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WR	15	Curtis Hamilton (6-0, 195, Sr.)
WR	11	Jake Gaebler (5-11, 185, So.)

» DEFENSE

LE	95	Dan Cline (6-6, 225, Jr.)
NT	91	Chris Walker (6-3, 295, Sr.)
RE	98	Entonia Johnson (6-0, 285, r-Fr.)
OLB	6	Blake Boyd (6-2, 240, So.)
ILB	42	L.J. Harbison (5-11, 220, So.)
ILB	4	Darvis McBride (5-10, 215, So.)
OLB	13	Andre Lewis (6-1, 210, Sr.)
CB	2	Marcus Minor (6-0, 195, Jr.)
CB	9	Rashad Etheridge (5-8, 165, So.)
FS	5	Bo Smith (5-10, 190, Sr.)
SS	30	Brad Cloud (6-0, 200, Jr.)

» SPECIALISTS

PK	83	Chris James (6-0, 190, Sr.)
P	60	Jeremy Moore (6-1, 185, So.)

What better introduction into the world of big-time football than a date with the defending national champ?

Western Kentucky's Sept. 1 visit to The Swamp to play Florida may be monumental in many ways.

The meeting with the Gators will be one of five Division I-A matchups Western Kentucky will have in its transition year from Division I-AA.

"These are both historical and changing times for WKU football," says Coach David Elson, who embarks on his fifth season at the helm in Bowling Green.

The Hilltoppers, who have a streak of 11 straight winning seasons after last year's 6-5 campaign, are facing a bit of a quandary at quarterback. Brandon Smith is the only returning player with any experience, seeing limited duty behind graduated Justin Haddix, but Notre Dame transfer David Wolke, K.J. Black and Brad Savco are all making a bid for the starting job.

Running back Lerron Moore ended his career last season as the school's all-time leading rusher, but Andrew McCloud (443 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and Tyrell Hayden (315 yards) know their way around the backfield.

While the quarterbacks may be a question, the receivers should provide plenty of answers. Last year's top three targets—Curtis Hamilton (52 catches, 841 yards, 10 TDs), Jake Gaebler (36, 416, 2) and Jessie Quinn (29 catches, 427 yards)—return to an offense that averaged 23.5 points and 364.8 yards (160.4 rushing, 204.4 passing) a game last season.

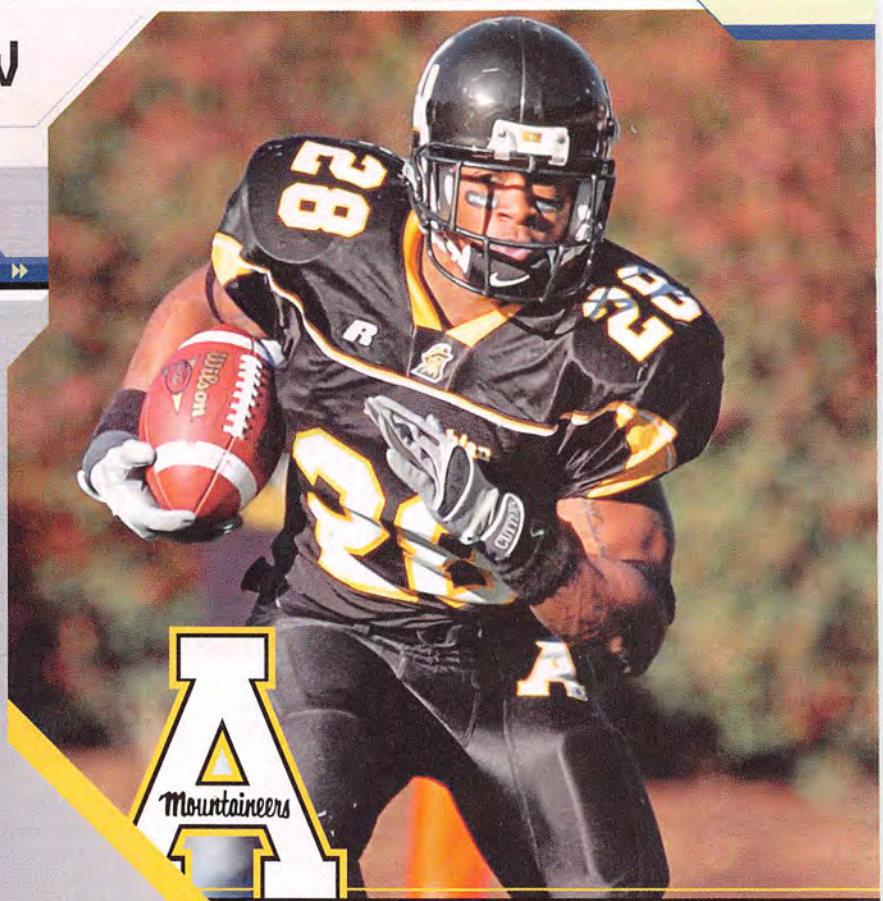
The problem may be on the defensive side of the ball. The Hilltoppers yielded 24 points and 323 yards (170 rushing, 153 passing) per game in 2006.

Cornerback Travis Watters (50 tackles, 3 INTs) will provide leadership and experience in the secondary.

I-AA OVERVIEW

TOP 25

1. APPALACHIAN STATE
2. MONTANA
3. NEW HAMPSHIRE
4. NORTH DAKOTA ST.
5. NORTHERN IOWA
6. McNEESE STATE
7. DELAWARE
8. ILLINOIS STATE
9. PORTLAND STATE
10. YOUNGSTOWN ST.
11. FURMAN
12. MASSACHUSETTS
13. SAM HOUSTON ST.
14. EASTERN ILLINOIS
15. WOFFORD
16. CAL POLY
17. TOWSON
18. TENN.-MARTIN
19. JAMES MADISON
20. SO. ILLINOIS
21. COASTAL CAROLINA
22. HAMPTON
23. YALE
24. SOUTH DAKOTA ST.
25. HOLY CROSS



KEVIN RICHARDSON, *RB, Appalachian St.*

Mountaineers look to make three-peat history, but will have competition from usual suspects

By **MATT McKENZIE,** *Street & Smith's* Staff Writer

The name may have changed, but the top team remains the same.

During the offseason, the NCAA decided to break up the nomenclature of Division I-A and I-AA. Division I-A teams are now in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), while I-AA squads are labeled as Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) teams. If you think this is more confusing than the original names, you're not alone.

But while this motion has confused many on the proper and correct name, one thing is clear: Appalachian State is still the team to beat in this classification, no matter what you call it.

After 77 years without a championship, the Mountaineers have now won back-to-back national titles and will try to capture an unprecedented third straight trophy in 2007.

With a 28-17 victory over Massachusetts in last year's championship game, Appalachian joins a list of just two other schools (Youngstown State and Georgia Southern) that have won consecutive titles. Georgia Southern did it

RICKY SANTOS
QB, New Hampshire

on three occasions. The Mountaineers have now won 23 straight games against non-Division I-A opponents and own a 27-game winning streak (over the last four years) at home. Appalachian's 14 wins last year also set a school record.

Mountaineers Coach Jerry Moore calls the last two seasons "an exciting adventure," but adds that he doesn't want it to be over with quite yet.

"We've certainly celebrated winning two, and once we got into spring practice, three-peat has kind of been a buzzword," Moore says. "We've got to enjoy the ride, but tune it out at the same time. There are high expectations and we've got to live up to them."

Most of Appalachian State's offensive firepower is back, led by the talents of quarterback Armanti Edwards and running back Kevin Richardson. The two provided a strong one-two punch throughout the season, keeping defenses honest in the process. As a freshman, Edwards wasn't the starter at the beginning of the year, but went on to become just the fifth player in NCAA history to throw for at least 2,000 yards and run for 1,000 in a season. Richardson, meanwhile, set a new I-AA record with 30 rushing touchdowns.

"Last year, Armanti was a total newcomer," Moore says. "Over the winter, he gained 10 or 12 pounds. And his arm is getting stronger too. The players respect him, so his leadership is probably coming. And Kevin, what is amazing about him is that in half our ballgames, he probably only played a half and still had marvelous stats. He's gone from a walk-on to earning a leadership role. There are great expectations for him."

If the Mountaineers have a flaw, it's on the defensive front, as ASU must replace three of its four starters, including All-America end Marques Murrell. A potential starter is LSU transfer Tim Washington.

Standing in the way of the Mountaineers' quest for a third straight title is a cast of powerhouses that has challenged for the championship year-in and year-out. Montana will be aided by the return of tailback Lex Hilliard, a two-time All-Big Sky performer who missed all of last season with a torn Achilles' tendon. New Hampshire has 2006 Walter Payton Award (given to the top I-AA player) winner Ricky Santos back at QB, but his favorite receiver, record-breaker David Ball, is now in the NFL.

Northern Iowa, which lost to ASU in the title game two years ago, has reloaded with 17 returning starters, including quarterback Eric Sanders and All-America offensive lineman Chad Rinehart. One wild card to keep an eye on is Sam Houston State, where former Oklahoma quarterback Rhett Bomar will add to a spread offense that historically has put big numbers.

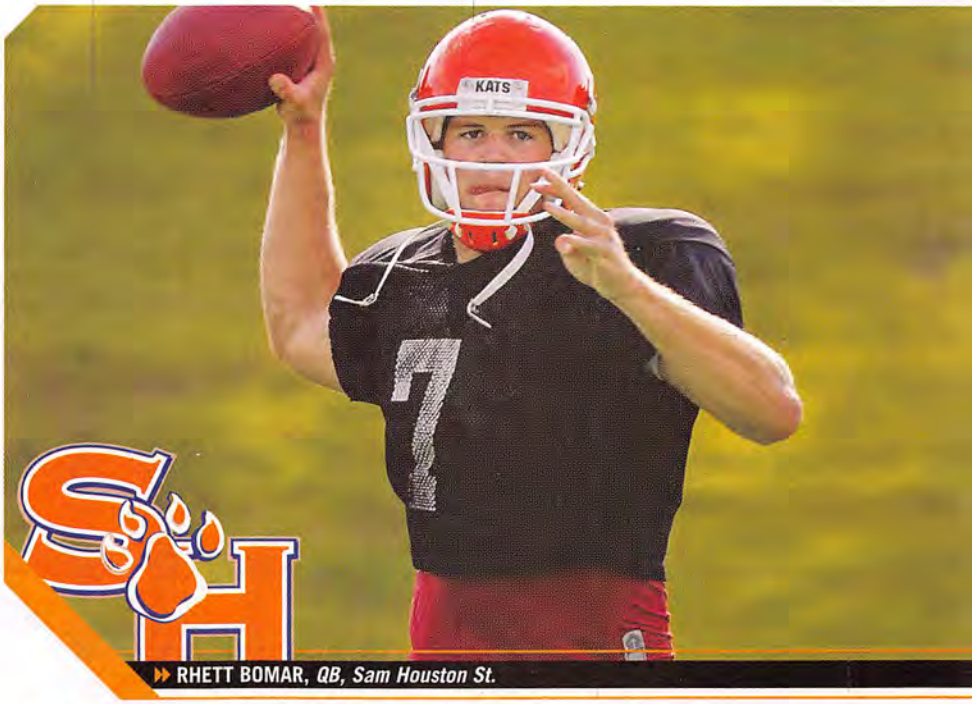
Appalachian State faces numerous obstacles in trying to leave Chattanooga, Tenn., with a third consecutive trophy. The Mountaineers travel to Michigan in their season opener, and play in the always-tough Southern Conference, which has the potential to put three or four teams in the playoffs this year. Moore knows the target will be on his group, with the bull's-eye larger than ever before. When you win two straight titles, it's hard to play the "no-respect" card. To counter that, Moore has been looking for any advantage possible during the offseason as his team sets out to try and make history.

"The thing is, we're an isolated team up in the mountains," he says. "The town's excited and fans are excited. I warned the guys about this. Everyone's patting us on the back, and it's been a fun ride for us. But how do you tune that out?

"We want to be even more precise with the way we practice during two-a-days. I like to go watch different teams practice, see the tempo, see the coaches. You go someplace for three days and pick up one point and put that to use for any amount of edge, it's worth it when you're trying to get a third straight title."

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE	**Kevin Richardson**, RB, Appalachian State
DEFENSE	**Bryan Smith**, DE, McNeese State
NEWCOMER	**Rhett Bomar**, QB, Sam Houston State



RHETT BOMAR, *QB, Sam Houston St.*

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	**Ricky Santos** (6-2, 215, Sr.) New Hampshire
RB	**Kevin Richardson** (5-9, 190, Sr.) Appalachian State
RB	**Herb Donaldson** (5-11, 220, Jr.) Western Illinois
OL	**Kerry Brown** (6-6, 300, Sr.) Appalachian State
OL	**Brennan Carvalho** (6-1, 310, Sr.) Portland State
OL	**Nate Safe** (6-5, 310, Sr.) North Dakota State
OL	**Chad Rinehart** (6-5, 308, r-Sr.) Northern Iowa
C	**George Yarno** (6-0, 275, Sr.) Idaho State
WR	**Alex Watson** (5-10, 189, Sr.) Northern Arizona
WR	**Jerome Simpson** (6-3, 190, Sr.) Coastal Carolina
TE	**Brad Listorti** (6-4, 245, r-Sr.) Massachusetts
PK	**Rob Zarrilli** (6-0, 193, Sr.) Hofstra
RS	**Steven Whitehead** (5-8, 171, Sr.) McNeese State

DEFENSE

DL	**Brian Johnston** (6-6, 276, Sr.) Gardner-Webb
DL	**John Faletoese** (6-3, 290, Jr.) UC Davis
DL	**Bryan Smith** (6-3, 217, Sr.) McNeese State
DL	**Kroy Biermann** (6-3, 238, Sr.) Montana
LB	**Mike Gallihugh** (6-0, 197, Sr.) Colgate
LB	**Donald Thomas** (5-10, 237, Sr.) Eastern Illinois
LB	**Colin Disch** (6-1, 220, Sr.) Albany
DB	**Tony LeZotte** (6-0, 200, r-Sr.) James Madison
DB	**Corey Lynch** (6-0, 205, Sr.) Appalachian State
DB	**Bobbie Williams** (6-0, 190, Sr.) Bethune-Cookman
DB	**Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** (6-2, 170, Sr.) Tenn. St.
P	**Mike Dragosavich** (6-5, 215, Sr.) North Dakota State

FACING PAGE (TOP TO BOTTOM): KEITH CLINE; CHUCK RYDLEWSKI / ICON SMI; TOM MAYES / ICON SMI

Predictions

1 Montana
2 Portland State
3 Weber State
4 Montana State
5 Northern Arizona
6 Eastern Washington
7 Sacramento State
8 Idaho State
9 Northern Colorado

Top Players

OFFENSE Lex Hilliard, *RB, Montana*
DEFENSE Cyrus Mulitalo, *LB, Sacramento State*
NEWCOMER Sean Norton, *QB, Northern Arizona*

GAME TO WATCH

11/17/07:
Montana @ Montana State

The 107th meeting between these two in-state rivals could determine the Big Sky champion.

BIG SKY

www.bigskyconf.com

I-AA

New coaches headline Big Sky, but look for Montana Grizzlies to continue dominance

By **MIKE SORENSEN**, *The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News*

The Big Sky Conference will feature a lot of new faces with three new head coaches this year.

Not many football fans have likely heard of John Zamberlin, who is the new coach at Idaho State, or Marshall Sperbeck, who takes over at Sacramento State.

However, the third new coach in the Big Sky is one who should be recognized by football fans throughout the country.

Portland State's new leader is Jerry Glanville, the former NFL coach for both the Atlanta Falcons and Houston Oilers. Of course, he's also known for his all-black outfits and a habit of leaving a pair of tickets for Elvis Presley before every game.

After many years of working as a TV analyst, Glanville spent the past two seasons at the University of Hawaii, where he served as the Rainbow Warriors' defensive coordinator. However, the 65-year-old Glanville shouldn't expect to win a conference title in his first season.

Montana, which seemingly just reloads every season, will be the team to beat again, as the Grizzlies feature 19 returning starters from a 12-2 team that made it to the I-AA semifinals.

Montana has been the most consistently successful program in Division I-AA over the past decade and a half. Over the past 14 years, the Grizzlies have won or shared 12 Big Sky titles (including the past nine in a row) and made the playoffs in each of those seasons.

Fifth-year Coach Bobby Hauck's team will be led by running back Lex Hilliard and defensive end Kroy Biermann. Hilliard already ranks second in school history with 2,884 rushing yards and 34 touchdowns. He'll be joined in the backfield by senior Reggie Bradshaw and sophomore Thomas Brooks-Fletcher. Although the Grizzlies lost quarterback Josh Swogger, they have experience with junior Cole Bergquist, who has started nine games over the past two seasons.

Biermann leads a defense that ranked ninth in the nation a year ago and returns eight starters and 31 lettermen. Also back are all-league safeties Colt Anderson and Torrey Thomas, along with second-team cornerback Jimmy Wilson and three starting linebackers: Tyler Joyce, Kyle Ryan and Loren Utterback.

Portland State, which knocked off Division I-A New Mexico 17-6 on the road last season, has been known for its defense in recent years. But the Vikings are expected to open things up offensively under Mouse Davis, who may be the oldest assistant coach in college football at age 74.

Davis, who was the head coach at Portland State from 1975-80, directed the high-powered run-and-shoot offense at Hawaii and coached alongside incoming Coach Jerry Glanville the last two years. The Vikings will count on senior Brian White or sophomore Tygue Howland at quarterback. They'll be protected by senior offensive lineman Brennan Carvalho, a consensus All-American in 2006. Glanville is installing a new 3-4 defense for a group that returns just four starters from a unit that was dominant last year.

Weber State Coach Ron McBride thinks his program is getting to the level envisioned three years ago when he took over the job after a long stint at Utah. This could be the season the Wildcats challenge Montana for the championship after narrowly losing to the Grizzlies the past two years.

Trevyn Smith, who rushed for 1,129 yards as a freshman, will lead a deep and balanced running attack, and the Wildcats hope 6-5 sophomore quarterback Brad Leggatt will develop quickly. Linebacker Brad Stewart heads up a defense that is experienced, particularly on the line, where Utah transfer Pate Moleni returns after earning all-league honorable mention a year ago.

Montana State was a surprise in 2006, finishing in a tie with Portland State at 6-2 and advancing to the playoffs, where the Bobcats won their first postseason contest since 1984, beating Furman 31-13.

However, the program has suffered a black eye in recent months with five former players either arrested or charged with drug crimes. Because of the instability, Coach Mike Kramer was fired in May. At press time, no replacement had been named.

The Bobcats have two quarterbacks to choose from in Cory Carpenter, who was 3-3 as a starter before sustaining an ankle injury, and Jack Rolovich, who started the Bobcats' final seven games and went 5-2. Defensively, Montana State is anchored by junior linebacker Bobby Daly, who led the team in tackles, and cornerback Kory Austin.

At **Northern Arizona**, All-America wide receiver Alex Watson, who caught 82 passes for 1,017 yards last year, returns for his senior season, but won't have Jason Murrietta flinging passes to him anymore.

Murrietta graduated after a stellar four-year career that saw him finish runner-up for the Walter Payton Award. Fresno State transfer Sean Norton, a former *Parade* All-American, is in the mix to take over at quarterback.

Eastern Washington has been one of the league's top offensive teams over the past three years and should be solid again. The Eagles return four starters on the offensive line, including two senior All-Americans in Rocky Hanni (6-5, 290 pounds) and Matt Alfred (6-3, 300).

At **Sacramento State**, Marshall Sperbeck takes over after a successful 15-year run as a junior-college coach at Foothill (Calif.) College. The defense looks to be the strength of the team with junior linebacker Cyrus Mulitalo, who averaged a league-best 10.9 tackles per game in 2006.

Idaho State's John Zamberlin comes from Central Washington, where he compiled a 63-41 mark in 10 seasons. He'll try to jump-start a Bengals program that has won just nine games in three seasons.

Zamberlin has 15 returning starters to work with, including all-conference honorable-mention cornerback D.J. Clark. The top returnee on offense is running back Josh Barnett, who rushed for 1,117 yards and six touchdowns last season.

Northern Colorado is entering its second season in the Big Sky, but unlike last year, the Bears will be eligible to win the conference title and earn a trip to the postseason. However, that will be a huge task after finishing 1-10 in 2006.

The Bears return six starters on both offense and defense under second-year Coach Scott Downing, but must replace all-time leading rusher Andre Wilson, who gained 1,027 yards last year.

GAME TO WATCH

11/3/07:
Coastal Carolina @ Liberty

Coastal escaped against the Flames at home 28-26 last year. This is the first of three straight weekends when the Big South contenders play each other.

Top Players

OFFENSE	Jerome Simpson, *WR, Coastal Carolina*
DEFENSE	Brian Johnston, *DE, Gardner-Webb*
NEWCOMER	Tyson Petty, *WR, Gardner-Webb*

Predictions

1. Coastal Carolina
2. Liberty
3. Gardner-Webb
4. Charleston Southern
5. VMI

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

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www.bigsouthsports.com

I-AA

Chanticleers continue to have lots to crow about on South Carolina coast

By **GARY McCANN**, *The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald*

Beginning its sixth season, the Big South Conference continues to take steps toward national prominence.

Coastal Carolina set the pace in 2006, claiming its second outright title in the past three seasons and garnering the league's first at-large bid to the Division I-AA playoffs.

The Chanticleers lost in the first round to top-ranked Appalachian State 45-28, after falling behind 31-0 at the half.

Charleston Southern and Coastal were ranked in the Top 25 during the same week last season. The Big South also won 21 non-conference games and averaged 6,838 fans, both records.

Coastal quarterback Tyler Thigpen became the league's first NFL draft pick.

The Big South has to wait until 2010 to be eligible for an automatic bid. That's when Presbyterian, making the move up from Division II, and Stony Brook, coming over from the Northeast Conference, will be football members in good standing. After last year, however, the league could merit at-large consideration again in 2007.

A team losing 36 seniors from a 9-3 championship team normally wouldn't be picked to win another title, but **Coastal Carolina**, under Coach David Bennett, is the best program in the league.

Over the past four seasons, the Chants are 34-11 overall and 12-4 against the league. Losing 13 starters, including seven first-team all-conference picks, makes this year just another challenge.

Quarterback Tyler Thigpen, the league's 2006 Offensive Player of the Year, defensive lineman Sam Harper, linebacker Jamar Leath and defensive back Quinton Teal leave the biggest holes. Wide receiver Jerome Simpson (61 catches, 1,077 yards, 16 TDs) is back, though.

Will Richardson, a 6-5, 225-pound junior who played in two games last year; Jamie Childers, a true freshman who enrolled early and went through spring practice; and 6-1, 190-pound redshirt freshman Sean Fortson will battle for the quarterback spot.

Mike Tolbert, a 5-10, 240-pound senior (439 yards, 7 TDs), is the top returning rusher behind a line anchored by 6-6, 295-pound Britt Leggett.

Linebacker D.J. Rice (51 tackles) and linemen Ronnie Mason (35 tackles, 3 sacks) and Adrain Grady (6-5, 260 pounds) lead the defense.

Under first-year Coach Danny Rocco, **Liberty** finished 6-5 last season. The five-game improvement tied for the best turnaround in the nation among I-AA teams.

Rocco returns 10 starters on offense, nine on defense.

The Flames have four offensive linemen back who were second-team all-conference, plus quarterback Brock Smith (1,376 yards, 7 TDs). Rashad Jennings, a 6-1, 240-pound junior, was the league's second-leading rusher (1,020 yards, 10 TDs) and Zach Terrell, who also plays quarterback, ranked third (673 yards, 13 TDs). The Flames led the conference with 23 rushing touchdowns.

Liberty set league records for scoring defense (15.6 ppg), points allowed (172) and total defense (306.6 ypg). Lineman Steve Ackley, linebacker Stevie Ray Lloyd and defensive backs E.L. Estes and Ryan Grieser—all second-team all-conference picks—return.

Coach Steve Patton's **Gardner-Webb** Bulldogs finished 6-5, their first winning season since 2003.

Patton has 19 starters back, including 10 from a defensive unit that started seven sophomores and ranked 112th of 115 teams nationally in total defense and 102nd in scoring defense.

New Defensive Coordinator John Windham has installed a more aggressive attack that will be led by last year's Big South Defensive Player of the Year, Brian Johnston, a 6-5, 280-pound end. He'll get help from third-team All-America linebacker Mario Brown (55 tackles, 5 sacks), linebacker Mike Pavelko and safety Daniel Cooke.

Quarterback Devin Campbell, a 6-4, 190-pound junior, ranked third in the league for total offense (2,215 yards passing, 15 TDs) last year.

All-league wide receiver Duvaughn Flagler (64 catches, 749 yards, 7 TDs) returns, along with all-conference lineman Demario Deese. Junior Dobson Collins (8 catches, 104 yards) and Tyson Petty, a 6-0, 165-pound freshman with 4.3 speed, make the wide-receiver position much stronger.

The Bulldogs were the only team in the conference to average fewer than 100 yards rushing per game (97.2) last year. They didn't have a back run for more than 349 yards, but keep an eye on sophomore Phillip Peoples (323 yards in '06).

Since 2004, **Charleston Southern** is 21-11 under Coach Jay Mills and is coming off a 9-2 campaign, a single-season school record for wins.

Maurice Price (103 catches, 985 yards, 10 TDs) led the NCAA in receptions per game (9.65) and returns to add to his Big South career records of 202 catches and 2,429 receiving yards.

Who gets him the ball is the question, as quarterback Collin Drafts, who was second in the league in total offense last year, is no longer around. Eli Byrd, a redshirt sophomore, and Sidney Bryant threw 23 passes combined last season. The top returning running back is Kenny Harper (429 yards, 5 TDs).

The Buccaneer defense should be strong, led by linebacker Jada Ross (127 tackles, 2 sacks), lineman Dennis Justiani (55 tackles, 6 sacks) and cornerback C.J. Hirschman (80 tackles, 3 INTs).

VMI lost four conference games by a combined 19 points, and Coach Jim Reid's Keydets finished 1-10, losing their last 10.

Reid begins his second season with an offense that led the league in rushing (206.6 ypg), but it's now without Sean Mizzer, who was the Big South's top tailback with 1,022 yards rushing. That puts pressure on a passing game that totaled just 1,132 yards and eight TDs.

Joey Robinson, a 6-1, 195-pound sophomore, ran for 330 yards in 2006 and should take over at quarterback.

Defensively, seven of the top 10 tacklers return, led by 6-3, 220-pound linebacker Patrick McKinney (82 tackles).

In 2006, the Keydets were last in the league in scoring (18.1 ppg) and at the bottom in points allowed per game (39.4).

Predictions

NORTH	SOUTH
1 New Hampshire	1 Delaware
2 Massachusetts	2 Towson
3 Northeastern	3 James Madison
4 Maine	4 Richmond
5 Hofstra	5 William & Mary
6 Rhode Island	6 Villanova

Top Players

OFFENSE	Ricky Santos, *QB, New Hampshire*
DEFENSE	Tony LeZotte, *S, James Madison*
NEWCOMER	Ronald Talley, *DE, Delaware*

GAME TO WATCH

10/06/07:
Delaware @ New Hampshire

The division's top two teams square off in what should be a good QB battle between New Hampshire's Ricky Santos and Delaware's Joe Flacco.

COLONIAL

www.caasports.com

I-AA

New name, same winning game: CAA should again have multiple NCAA bids

By **JOHN O'CONNOR**, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

New name. Same league.

What was the Atlantic 10 Football Conference has been absorbed by the Colonial Athletic Association. The CAA, which has been without football since its inception in 1985, takes over operational control of this league because six of the 12 members belong to the Colonial for other sports, and were anxious to play football under the CAA banner.

The Colonial inherits a dozen programs of distinction. Its membership has advanced multiple teams to the playoffs for 16 straight years, the longest streak of any Division I-AA conference. Since 1998, three league programs won national championships (Massachusetts in '98, Delaware in '03 and James Madison in '04). In the past six seasons, 10 of the 12 members have participated in the playoffs.

"When you coach in this conference, there aren't any really weak teams," says Rhode Island Coach Tim Stowers. "Usually, there is one great team that comes out of it, and two or three or sometimes four playoff teams. It has got to be the toughest league at this level in the country because of the quality and depth of the member teams."

The CAA figures to retain the distinction to which Stowers referred, with familiar programs leading the way.

NORTH DIVISION

The pitch is back in **New Hampshire's** terrific pitch-catch combo, and that's a good start. Quarterback Ricky Santos won the 2006 Walter Payton Award as Division I-AA's top player and will start for the fourth straight season. This time around, however, Santos won't have the catch, David Ball, as a target.

Ball was named a 2006 All-American after averaging 7.2 yards per catch and 85.7 receiving yards a game. He consistently drew double coverage and still scored 13 touchdowns.

Out of the team's spread offense, the 6-2, 217-pound Santos is a tough runner. But the Wildcats averaged a league-leading 35.3 points last season because of his ability to spread the ball around and avoid turnovers. Senior Keith LeVan, a possession receiver last season, looks to be Santos' new go-to guy. LeVan was named third-team all-conference last season, when he averaged 51.7 receiving yards and 9.6 yards per catch.

During his freshman season, Chad Kackert immediately became a versatile weapon. The 5-8, 190-pound sophomore tailback will again be used as a runner and receiver out of the backfield.

On his way in becoming one of New Hampshire's top all-time tacklers is senior safety Jeff Pammer, effective as a blitzer and cover man. Other standouts among the half-dozen returning defensive starters are senior linebacker Husain Karim, relatively short at 5-10 but a 230-pound rock, and junior cornerback John Clements.

Massachusetts made it to the 2006 national championship game and, though the Minutemen fell to Appalachian State, they set a school record for victories (13). More success seems probable with Liam Coen returning at quarterback. Coen, a junior entering his third season as a starter, ranks as one of college football's most efficient QBs. Last year he completed 64.5 percent of his attempts and passed for 26 touchdowns with just 10 interceptions.

Gone is Steve Baylark, who rushed for 1,000 or more yards in each of his four seasons and averaged 130.7 yards as a senior. Sophomore Tony Nelson, who gained 235 yards last season, is expected to emerge as Massachusetts' primary ball-carrier. On the offensive line, the Minutemen will rely on seniors Matt Austin and Nick Diana while breaking in 6-8, 285-pound Ben Coblyn, a former Boston University basketball player.

The blitz-happy Minutemen have allowed 13.3 points per game over the last two seasons. Gone is All-America safety James Ihedigbo, but senior linebacker Jason Hatchell is back and he led the team in tackles last year.

Northeastern will try to build on an impressive five-win season, which sounds odd. Northeastern was 1-4 before playing its first home game on Oct. 7, then won four of its last six.

Fifteen starters return and the emphasis would appear to be smash-mouth offense. The Huskies will lead with 6-0, 220-pound senior tailback Maurice Murray, a second-team all-league selection in each of the last two seasons who has gained 2,385 career rushing yards.

The top defensive assignment at Northeastern is to get off the field. No league team gave up more passing TDs than the Huskies (19). Seven defensive starters are back to address that problem, and the best is linebacker Joe Mele, who recorded 5.5 tackles for loss last season.

Even when **Maine** lost last season, its defense played well. That strength is likely to continue as the Black Bears bring back all three linebackers, including three-year regular John Wormuth, among six returning defensive starters.

No team in I-AA was better against the run than Maine (63.9 ypg allowed) in 2006, and the Black Bears, while going 6-5, led the league in scoring defense (13.1 ppg) and total defense (229.9 ypg).

In addition to Wormuth, who was responsible for 5.7 tackles a game, Maine features defensive lineman Bruno Dorsimond, a 6-4, 295-pound senior who recorded eight tackles for loss last season, and junior linebacker Andrew Downey.

Maine has more offensive starters returning (8), but the Bears will break in a new quarterback after losing four-year starter Ron Whitcomb, a pass/run threat.

Hofstra's Rob Zarrilli excels at scoring points, but not TDs. That's the good and the bad for the Pride, coming off a 2-9 season.

Zarrilli checks in for his last college season as one of the nation's best kickers. The 6-0, 203-pound senior made 18 of 21 field-goal attempts as a junior, and 17 of 19 as a sophomore. A two-time all-conference performer, Zarrilli also earned 2006 All-America recognition.

Hofstra averaged a league-low 16.8 points a game, was last in rushing (69.0 ypg) and made good on only 27 percent of its third-down opportunities while getting used to Cohen's system. A new quarterback will take over and do plenty of handing off to senior Kareem Huggins, who gained 572 yards last season. Senior receiver Charles Sullivan has 152 catches in three seasons.

Among nine returning starters on defense is sophomore linebacker Luke Bonus, the conference's 2006 Defensive Rookie of the Year, and fellow

linebacker Gian Villante, a former All-American (2004) who earned all-conference honors last season.

Rhode Island Coach Tim Stowers adopted "Finish What We Start" as the Rams' motto this season. The team has had more good beginnings than finishes during Stowers' seven seasons at Rhode Island.

The Rams will have experience, particularly in their option offense that returns 10 starters. Rhode Island went 4-7 last season and each of its skill players was a freshman or sophomore. Bank on the Rams running primarily with junior fullback Joe Casey (who had offseason shoulder surgery), a two-time all-league pick who gained 874 yards last season and a conference-leading 1,245 yards as a freshman.

SOUTH DIVISION

Delaware went 5-6 last year, only its second losing season since 1987. Considering their 6-5 finish in 2005, the Blue Hens' distinction as the league's flagship program has faded. With the talent Delaware returns and brought in, however, resurrection is likely.

Ten offensive starters are back, most notably quarterback Joe Flacco, a strong-armed 6-6 senior, and running back Omar Cuff, who led the team in rushing during each of the last three seasons and has career totals of 2,419 yards and 30 TDs. Flacco passed for more than 200 yards seven times and set a school record for completions last season.

The lone offensive loss is a significant one: All-American Ben Patrick, who led all I-AA tight ends in receptions (64). But Delaware still has Aaron Love, a junior wide receiver/punt returner who is among the league's best at each position.

Defensive improvement is paramount for a program that last season allowed an average of 397.7 yards (108th of 116 I-AA teams). Coach K.C. Keeler used nine true freshmen in 2006, and accepted a few transfers who should immediately fortify resistance this season. Junior end Ronald Talley (6-4, 260 pounds) was a part-time starter at Notre Dame; junior linebacker Johnathon Smith started some at Connecticut; and junior cornerback Marvin McKinnie comes from the junior-college ranks.

Back from a separated shoulder is Matt Marcorelle, who will be the first sophomore in program history to serve as a captain. Two years ago as a starting true freshman, the quick 6-2, 250-pound defensive end collected four sacks among his nine tackles for loss.

Towson plays home games at Johnny Unitas Stadium and, appropriately, may have the league's most productive passing attack for the second consecutive season.

Quarterback Sean Schaefer averaged 303.3 passing yards a game and threw for 19 TDs with just nine interceptions last year. The junior will have one of the nation's most imposing receivers in 6-9 junior Tommy Breaux, who is also a starting forward on the Tigers' basketball team.

Four starters return on an offensive line that Coach Gordy Combs wants to run-block with a bit more this season. Senior Nick Williams, bothered by a hamstring last season on the way to 327 yards, gets the first crack at featured back. Williams is a three-year starter with 1,453 career yards who also plays lacrosse at Towson. The Tigers are high on running back Jas Lee Rouson, a 5-11, 225-pound redshirt freshman.

Three linebackers return, led by senior Brian Bradford, a four-year starter, and senior John Webb, a three-year starter. The secondary also has three starters back.

Over the last three seasons, **James Madison** went 29-9 and won the 2004 national championship. The major difference in 2007 is that Justin Rascati won't be playing quarterback. The three-year starter minimized turnovers, made plays when necessary as a runner or passer and was a mature team leader.

Junior Rodney Landers may be more athletic than Rascati, but nobody knows how Landers will handle himself as the starting QB. Because of that, JMU Coach Mickey Matthews will probably give senior running back Eugene Holloman (who gained 1,085 yards last year) plenty of work.

There were significant departures on both sides of the ball, but Matthews also has 12 returning starters. James Madison brings back 5-7 senior L.C. Baker, a wideout and dangerous punt returner who has more than 1,000 career yards.

Senior safety Tony LeZotte (6-0, 200 pounds) is a four-year starter and hard hitter who excels in run support. A three-time all-league pick, LeZotte will lead a defense that's missing linebacker Akeem Jordan, the league's 2006 Defensive Player of the Year. The Dukes will also be without standout defensive end Kevin Winston, but have a couple of solid defensive linemen back in John Baranowsky and Hassan Abdul-Wahid.

Richmond went 6-5 last season with an experienced defense and young offense. The arrangement now reverses. The Spiders need to replace eight defensive starters, but have four offensive linemen back to go along with senior tailback Tim Hightower, senior receiver Arman Shields and sophomore QB Eric Ward.

The Spiders will again lean hard on the 225-pound Hightower and the blocking of Tim Silver, Derek Stoudt, Aaron Miller and Matt McCracken.

Two of the league's best linebackers, Adam Goloboski and Lance Gray, are gone, as is all-league defensive lineman Johnny Campbell. Richmond needs big seasons from senior defensive end Sherman Logan, a former league Defensive Rookie of the Year who missed spring ball with a back problem, junior defensive end Lawrence Sidbury Jr. and senior defensive back Stephen Howell.

William & Mary hopes for a blast from the past. The Tribe was one of the league's most consistent winners for an extended stretch after joining in 1993. But a 5-6 season in 2005 was followed by a 3-8 finish last year, the lowest victory total since 1982.

Adrian Tracy, a 6-4, 235-pound sophomore defensive end, is a pass-rushing specialist. He and junior cornerback Derek Cox will lead a defense that could use a few more physical playmakers.

William & Mary finished 11th among league teams in total defense last year (394.8 ypg). The Tribe has rarely featured one of the conference's best defenses, but commonly would make up for defensive issues with a highly productive offense. However, the Tribe averaged just 19.0 points last year, third worst in the conference.

Senior Mike Potts and junior Jake Phillips have both started at QB in the past with mixed results. William and Mary isn't expected to select a starter until preseason practice. The other major question is at tailback. Elijah Brooks was the Tribe's top ball-carrier for three seasons and gained 2,945 career yards. But he's now gone, and the first shot at running back will go to DeBrian Holmes, who missed spring ball following ankle surgery.

Whoever ends up playing quarterback will look to 6-3 senior wideout Joe Nicholas, who has seven 100-yard receiving games and 2,127 career receiving yards. Four starters on the offensive line also return.

Villanova won the final four. Not the hoops version, but its last four games of 2006, a finish that "gives us a great deal of confidence," according to Coach Andy Talley.

The Wildcats went 6-5, but the late-season charge was important for a program that had dropped nine of 12 games dating back to 2005. Villanova's goal is to re-acclimate sophomore quarterback Antwon Young to the college game as quickly as possible following a redshirt season. The 6-4, 200-pound Young played a very limited role as a true freshman two years ago.

Predictions

1 Northern Iowa
2 Illinois State
3 Youngstown State
4 Southern Illinois
5 Western Illinois
6 Indiana State
7 Missouri State

Top Players

OFFENSE Herb Donaldson, *RB, Western Illinois*
DEFENSE Kye Stewart, *LB, Illinois State*
NEWCOMER Mitchell Moore, *RB, Illinois State*

GAME TO WATCH

09/29/07:
Northern Iowa @ Illinois State

Northern Iowa kept the Redbirds from a share of the Gateway crown last year with a 38-27 regular-season-closing win. Star QBs Eric Sanders and Luke Drone will duel this time on Hancock Stadium's brand-new FieldTurf.

GATEWAY

www.gatewayfootball.org

I-AA

Transition season or no, Gateway power shows

By **RANDY REINHARDT**, *Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph*

Elite conferences in the Football Championship Subdivision/I-AA love to stake claim to the unofficial title of No. 1 league in the classification.

The Gateway stated its case quite eloquently in 2006, as Youngstown State, Southern Illinois and Illinois State all advanced to the national quarterfinals.

The Penguins, Salukis and Redbirds all harbor legitimate aspirations for another successful campaign, as does Northern Iowa, which fell one game short of adequate playoff credentials last year. All four teams finished 2006 in the top 17 of the national rankings and appear once again to be worthy of that lofty caliber.

This is a transition season for the Gateway, which now has seven teams with the departure of Western Kentucky to I-A and the Sun Belt Conference. Then, in 2008, league membership will swell to nine when South Dakota State and North Dakota State join the ranks.

Having made the playoffs in odd-numbered years and missing the postseason in even-numbered years each season since 2000, **Northern Iowa** is certainly glad seven is an odd number. But the Panthers, who have had winning seasons in 17 of the past 18 years, are even happier with the abundance of talent returning from a 7-4 squad.

Senior quarterback Eric Sanders guided Northern Iowa to the national championship game in 2005 and is back for his third season under center. The veteran signal-caller has plenty of support in running backs Corey Lewis and Darian Williams and receivers Johnny Gray and Terrell Allen. Ranked fourth nationally in total offense last year, the Panthers also boast four returning starters up front, led by All-Gateway tackle Chad Rinehart.

An experienced defense featuring safeties Chris Parsons and Clifford Waters and linebacker Brannon Carter will get assistance from a influx of junior-college players. Star cornerback Dre Dokes will be difficult to replace, as will all-league kicker Brian Wingert.

Illinois State's All-Gateway quarterback, Luke Drone, passed for 21 touchdowns and nearly 3,000 yards last season and brings a formidable group of offensive linemen in Isaiah Wiggins, Jonathan St-Pierre, Brandon Joyce and Joe Niklasch back with him.

The Redbirds, who face the Gateway's toughest non-conference schedule, must replace record-setting tailback Pierre Rembert. But Rafael Rice, Geno Blow and Iowa State transfer Mitchell Moore appear capable. The receiving corps is untested beyond Jason Horton.

If the Redbirds have a sixth consecutive Gateway Defensive Player of the Year, it will likely be speedy outside linebacker Kye Stewart, who totaled 126 tackles and 11 stops for loss last year. Illinois State's biggest question mark (2006 Gateway Defensive Player-of-the-Year Cameron Siskowic has graduated) may be the two linebackers who will join Stewart. Defensive backs Jesse Caesar and Tom Nelson and lineman Jarek Thomas are proven assets.

Illinois State is 16-8 over the past two seasons and Coach Denver Johnson was rewarded with a four-year contract extension.

Hit harder by graduation than any Gateway team, **Youngstown State** lost 27 lettermen and eight first-team All-Gateway performers from an 11-3 team that was eliminated in the playoffs by national champion Appalachian State. The departures include tailback Marcus Mason and his 1,847 yards rushing, an All-America center in Ryan Jewell and secondary studs Codera Jackson and Jason Perry.

The defense should have a solid front seven, with Mychal Savage anchoring the line and James Terry starring at linebacker in an alignment that may give more of a 4-3 look (from a 3-4) under new coordinator Jeff Mills. The Penguins will benefit from the return of linebacker Jeremiah Wright, who recorded 26 tackles in two games last year before suffering a season-ending injury.

With 36 career starts, quarterback Tom Zetts is a beacon of stability for an offense in transition. Jabari Scott and Jordan Edwards will get an opportunity at tailback, while tight end Derrick Bush and wide receiver Rory Berry will aid the passing game.

Southern Illinois will dearly miss All-America tailback Arkee Whitlock and his 1,828 rushing yards and 25 touchdowns. While John Randle is his heir apparent, more focus will fall on quarterback Nick Hill. After completing nearly 62 percent of his passes and tossing only four interceptions last year, Hill will have the support of seasoned linemen Darren Marquez, Andrew Kernes, Shawn Smith and Aaron Lockwood.

Standout return specialist Craig Turner is a pro prospect at cornerback. Linebacker Brandin Jordan was last season's conference Freshman of the Year. Tackle Andre Tillman, linebacker Chauncy Mixon and safety A.J. Wallace are other defensive stalwarts.

The Salukis are seeking their fifth consecutive playoff appearance under Coach Jerry Kill.

The Gateway in 2006 was definitely the year of the tailback with Whitlock, Mason and Rembert all making the top 11 in voting for the Walter Payton Award. Lost in the luster was **Western Illinois'** Herb Donaldson. As a sophomore, Donaldson rushed for 1,417 yards and 18 touchdowns.

Donaldson will be the focus of opposing defenses as one of just three returning offensive starters for the Leathernecks, along with receiver Carl Sims and lineman Drew Sweeney. Will Ducey will try to move up from being Steve LaFalce's backup the past two seasons at quarterback.

Linebacker Jerome Bennett, third in Gateway tackles last season, paces eight returning defensive starters. Linebacker Jason Williams and backs Milan Woodard, Trokon Tompo and Patrick Stoudamire join Bennett in what should be an improved defense.

While 18 losses came first, **Indiana State** got its first win under Coach Lou West in the 1-10 campaign of 2006. Remaining patient, West continues to build from the ground up with high school players.

Tony West, the coach's son, will be a workhorse running back behind four returning starters on the line after rushing for 791 yards a year ago. Quarterback Reilly Murphy passed for 1,770 yards, but he could be challenged by Charles Dowdell.

The Indiana State defense gets a much-needed new look after coughing up nearly 45 points per game last season. New coordinator Steve Barrows brings a 3-3-5 stack alignment from Charleston Southern.

Expect progress in Coach Terry Allen's second season at **Missouri State**. Slow progress, that is, as a mere seven starters return from a 2-9 team that averaged a league-low 281.6 yards per game in 2006.

GAME TO WATCH

11/10/07:
North Dakota State @ Cal Poly

Bad blood over the impending departure of the conference's top team could come to a boil here in a game that may also have Great West title implications. Cal Poly will welcome its homecoming crowd after four straight road games.

Top Players

OFFENSE	James Noble, *RB, Cal Poly*
DEFENSE	Ryan Shotwell, *DE, Cal Poly*
NEWCOMER	Joe Trombetta, *RB, UC Davis*

Predictions

1. North Dakota State
2. Cal Poly
3. South Dakota State
4. UC Davis
5. Southern Utah

Great West Football Conference

GREAT WEST
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Bison to take Great West crown as parting gift

By **MIKE GIGLIO**, *Street & Smith's* Editorial Intern

The fledgling Great West Conference sprinted ahead of the I-AA/FCS field in just its third year out of the gate. Four of the five teams finished among the top 16 in the Gridiron Power Index, led by North Dakota State at No. 3. The Bison were 10-1 overall (including a victory over Division I-A Ball State) with their sole defeat coming from the Big Ten in a 10-9 loss at Minnesota.

Cal Poly (No. 12), UC Davis (No. 14) and South Dakota State (tied for 16th) combined for a 20-13 overall record, notching big wins along the way. The Great West finished ahead of the MAC and Sun Belt in the 2006 Sagarin Ratings as well.

But size matters in I-AA, where a conference needs six teams to qualify for an automatic playoff berth. This bodes ill for the precocious yet unstable Great West. North Dakota State and South Dakota State will jump to the Gateway next year in pursuit of a more certain future and that all-important auto bid, as both programs continue their fast-paced ascent after moving up from Division II in 2004.

Great West Commissioner Ed Grom calls the planned departures "a disappointment, but not a shock," saying the conference was formed with the understanding that teams would be free to seek out other opportunities. Gateway Commissioner Patty Viverito describes the Great West as a short-term "marriage of convenience." Northern Colorado left for the Big Sky in 2005.

The conference hopes to solidify its future by adding two schools eager to mimic recent history. The Universities of North and South Dakota have informally agreed to join the Great West as provisional members in 2008, and the programs are adding scholarships and scheduling opponents in anticipation of crossing over from Division II. All four teams in the Dakotas were very competitive when they played together in the North Central Conference.

In the interim, the conference could again emerge as the class of I-AA, with **North Dakota State** repeating as best in the West. With a talented Bison trio including conference-leading rusher Kyle Steffes now trying out in the NFL, Coach Craig Bohl has some serious holes to fill. But he returns a strong core of veterans—eight on each side of the ball and both kickers—and will look to build on last season's conference title.

Senior Steve Walker quarterbacked an offense that led the conference with 398.9 yards and 34.0 points per game. He and receiver Kole Heckendorf, coming off a season with 52 catches for 752 yards and five scores, share the burden of replacing Steffes' production. Tyler Roehl becomes the feature back after starting at fullback. *Street & Smith's* preseason All-American Nate Safe will anchor the line up front.

The Bison allowed just 67.2 yards per game on the ground last year and gave up the fewest points in the conference. Two defensive stalwarts were lost to graduation at tackle and safety, but the starting linebackers return along with three veterans on the line. Free safety Nick Schommer (3 INTs, 1 TD) will again patrol the secondary.

The traditionally powerful **Cal Poly** defense has a lot of new faces this season. Sophomore Ryan Shotwell (7 sacks, 9.5 tackles for loss) will see more action at the flex position as he works to help fill the shoes of older brother Kyle, who won the Buck Buchanan Award (given to the top I-AA defensive player) last year. The Mustangs will also count on improved play from Sean Lawyer on the interior and solid efforts from their capable veteran linebackers.

Coach Rich Ellerson may need to rely more on his offense to control games, and he has the back to do it in James Noble, who has rushed for at least 1,000 yards the past two years. Cal Poly has a top center in Stephen Field and will need his presence to solidify a line that could start as many as three redshirt freshmen. Jonathan Dally is pushing Matt Brennan for the chance to throw to receiver Ramses Barden, who averaged nearly 20 yards over 42 catches last year.

After dropping its first three contests in 2006, **South Dakota State** went on a seven-win tear before losing its final match for the Great West crown. The stretch included consecutive one-point stunners over Cal Poly and UC Davis, both relying on fourth-quarter heroics and the steady leg of senior kicker Parker Douglass, who has broken many of Adam Vinatieri's school records.

The Jackrabbits may not have lost their fight, but the offense graduated the bulk of its firepower in running back Anthony Watson, quarterback Andy Kardoes and receiver Micah Johnson. Coach John Stieglemeier is confident in replacing Watson with Cory Koenig, who consistently gets midrange yards, but the situation remains unsettled under center. Junior Ryan Berry has the advantage over senior Reed Burckhardt heading into camp. JaRon Harris looks ready to take over as the main receiving threat.

The defense is rebuilding in the secondary, where sure-tackling Andrew Hoogeveen will move from outside linebacker to strong safety to help the cause. The strength of the Jackrabbits lies up front, where linemen Eric Schroeder, Jason Bonwell and Danny Batten combined for 29 backfield stops. Senior Justin Kubesh (79 tackles) leads the unit at middle linebacker.

Three close losses marred its conference record in 2006, but **UC Davis** fields a talented young team that could surprise in its first year of playoff eligibility. The defense boasts a strong linebacker corps, with redshirt freshman Dozie Amajoyi looking to make a major impact. The offensive line graduated three-year starters at both tackle spots, but two transfers are poised to take over, and the interior looks solid behind center Tommy Hernandez. Redshirt freshman Joe Trombetta (6-0, 220 pounds) runs a 4.5 40 and could have a breakout year out of the backfield. A deep group of receivers and tight ends figures to alleviate the loss of conference-leading receiver Tony Kays, but the Aggies must replace top quarterback Jon Grant and have yet to name his successor.

Southern Utah hasn't kept up in the Great West. The Thunderbirds went 2-3 in the conference's inaugural campaign but dropped to 1-4 in 2005 before going winless last season, during which they gave up the most points in the conference while scoring the fewest. Their chances of improving rest on senior QB Wes Marshall, who ranked second in the conference for total offense with 1,942 yards through the air and 366 on the ground.

Predictions

1 Yale
2 Princeton
3 Harvard
4 Penn
5 Cornell
6 Columbia
7 Dartmouth
8 Brown

Top Players

OFFENSE	Mike McLeod, *RB, Yale*
DEFENSE	Joe Anastasio, *LB, Penn*
NEWCOMER	Nicolai Schwarzkopf, *TE, Harvard*

GAME TO WATCH

11/10/07:
Yale @ Princeton

These two teams tied for the league crown a year ago and Yale will be looking for revenge after dropping a 34-31 decision on its home field to Princeton a year ago. This game should be just as exciting and a last-second touchdown or field goal could decide the outcome.

IVY LEAGUE

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I-AA

Bulldogs will have plenty of bite in '07

By **STEVE SILVERMAN**, *Street & Smith's* correspondent

Yale looms as the lead dog with Princeton following closely behind as the Ivy League prepares for the 2007 season.

Both teams appear to be ahead of the rest of the pack, and the Bulldogs have an edge at quarterback over the Tigers. Matt Polhemus has the physical tools to take over a game and the intelligence and instincts to figure out the weaknesses in opposing defenses.

The Tigers have to find an adequate replacement for QB Jeff Terrell, who had been described by longtime Ivy League followers and many scouts as the heart and soul of the Princeton team. If Coach Roger Hughes can get consistent play from Bill Foran, the Ivy League title could come down to a late-season meeting (Nov. 10) between the two teams at Princeton.

Yale (8-2, 6-1 Ivy) has the weapons to defend the league championship it shares with Princeton. There is little doubt that the Bulldogs should have one of the most exciting offenses in the league. Quarterback Matt Polhemus and running back Mike McLeod are both explosive players, and should benefit from three returning starters off last year's offensive line.

Polhemus is not a prolific passer, but he has a knack for making big plays when the game is on the line. He completed 109 of 208 passes for 1,437 yards with five touchdowns and six interceptions last year. Those numbers may appear to be average, but throw in the fact that Polhemus averaged 5.7 yards as a runner and his accuracy improved in the fourth quarter, and Coach Jack Siedlecki knows he has a dependable quarterback. The key to the offense is the running of McLeod, who may be the best offensive player in the conference. McLeod won All-Ivy first-team honors in 2006, running for 1,364 yards and 19 touchdowns.

The defense should be one of the strongest units in the league. The Bulldogs return nine of 11 starters, including senior defensive tackle Brandt Hollander, who had 24 tackles and four sacks in 2006 while winning All-Ivy honors.

Princeton (9-1, 6-1) will try to challenge Yale for Ivy supremacy. It won't be easy after losing QB Jeff Terrell to graduation. Coach Roger Hughes will look to junior Bill Foran to fill the void. Foran led the Tigers on a 50-yard scoring drive in last year's 31-28 win over Harvard, but he will have to hold off Greg Mroz and Brian Anderson to win the job outright. Foran is an excellent athlete with great speed, but needs to improve in reading defenses.

Wide receiver Brendan Circle should be the Tigers' go-to receiver. He is a game-changing player who led the team with 56 receptions for 835 yards and seven touchdowns last year.

Harvard (7-3, 4-3) will have to find a way to offset the loss of running back Clifton Dawson, the All-Ivy running back who plans on playing in the NFL this year even if he wasn't invited to participate in the league's Scouting Combine. Dawson, the Ivy League's all-time rushing leader who concluded his career with a 1,213-yard, 20-TD season, will be very difficult to replace. Cheng Ho will have the best opportunity to take over that role. Ho ran for 145 yards and averaged 4.7 yards per carry last year while getting into the end zone once.

Quarterbacks Liam O'Hagan and Chris Pizzotti will have to step up for Coach Tim Murphy. Pizzotti completed less than 50 percent of his passes, but was able to keep his interceptions to a minimum, throwing five all season. He needs to get more aggressive and productive as the running game is bound to go through a rebuilding phase.

Penn (5-5, 3-4) could throw itself into Ivy contention if it can get a tad luckier. The Quakers suffered three straight overtime losses (to Yale, Brown and Princeton) a year ago, the first team in NCAA history to suffer that fate. Penn also lost the season finale to Cornell 28-27. All of the overtime losses were due to errors in the kicking game, so Coach Al Bagnoli knows that a slight correction in that area could turn his team around. Linebacker Joe Anastasio is the clear leader of a hard-hitting defense. Anastasio had 102 tackles a year ago and has the kind of nasty, punishing attitude that coaches look for.

Cornell Coach Jim Knowles knows how to get the most out of his players and has established himself as one of the better coaches in the Ivy League as he prepares for his fourth season. The Big Red (5-5, 3-4) return 14 starters and should have the best rushing attack in the league. Luke Siwula and Shayne Kilcoyne are the mainstays of a running game that averaged 182 yards per outing last year.

Norries Wilson established consistency and toughness in his first season at **Columbia**. The first black head coach in the history of the league led the team to its first conference win in 17 games when Columbia defeated Cornell last November. He followed up that home win with another on the road against Brown to close the season.

The Lions (5-5, 2-5) have plenty of momentum heading into the 2007 season. They are a strong defensive team that didn't allow any opponents to score more than 25 points in a game last year. Junior linebacker Drew Quinn is the anchor of that defense.

Not much has gone right for **Dartmouth** Coach Buddy Teevens in his second stint directing the Big Green. While Teevens is known as an innovator with great drive, Dartmouth (2-8, 2-5) has been going through difficult times since he returned in 2005.

Teevens remains confident that he will be able to get his team turned around in 2007. With three recruiting classes under his belt and a serious commitment in the weight room, Teevens believes Dartmouth will show improvement.

The Big Green need to find a quarterback since Mike Fritz has moved on after leading the team in rushing and ranking second in the Ivy League for passing efficiency. Senior Tom Bennewitz has the inside track at replacing him. Wide receiver Carroll Papajohn may be sought out by the pizza chain if he can meet or exceed what he averaged per catch (28.6 yards) on the JV squad.

The best player on the defense is linebacker Justin Cottrell, who led Dartmouth with 95 tackles last year.

The **Brown** Bears (3-7, 2-5) have slipped dramatically since winning their surprising Ivy League championship in 2005. That was running back Nick Hartigan's final year, and Coach Phil Estes could not find an adequate replacement last season. The defense faces a similar situation with the departure of linebacker Zak DeOssie, who led the league with 110 tackles a year ago. If Brown is going to exceed minimal expectations, Estes will have to get solid play from an experienced crew of receivers.

GAME TO WATCH

10/27/07:
Duquesne @ Iona

How will the Dukes respond against the team that ended their conference streak one game shy of 40? The Gaels better have their guard up against some serious parting shots.

Top Players

OFFENSE	Scott Knapp, *QB, Duquesne*
DEFENSE	John Simmons, *LB, Duquesne*
NEWCOMER	Deric Dudinski, *RB, La Salle*

Predictions

1. Duquesne
2. Marist
3. Iona
4. La Salle
5. Saint Peter's

METRO ATLANTIC

www.maacsports.com

I-AA

Dukes look to hand out parting punishment

By **STEVE AMEDIO**, *Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette*

There will be a new world for the Duquesne football program to conquer next year, but before that happens the Dukes will likely continue to dominate their current realm and capture a ninth consecutive Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship.

Duquesne will join the Northeast Conference and begin awarding football scholarships in 2008, which seems like a natural move for a program that has seemingly owned the MAAC since joining in 1994. But that doesn't mean it will steamroll through its final season, and one conference opponent showed last year that it's not impossible to defeat the mighty Dukes.

Iona turned in the biggest MAAC football shock in recent history, upending Duquesne 17-13 to hand the Dukes their first conference loss after 39 consecutive victories. Can any team duplicate that feat this year?

Probably not. **Duquesne** (7-3, 3-1 MAAC) returns 18 starters—nine on offense, seven on defense and its kicker and punter—for third-year Coach Jerry Schmitt, the MAAC Coach of the Year in his first two seasons with the program.

The only question mark for Duquesne appears to be the secondary, where three first-team All-MAAC performers have graduated.

The Dukes get plenty back elsewhere on defense with seven all-conference selections returning, including linebackers John Simmons, Greg Hough and Eric Halberstadt and senior defensive end Travis Decker, who led the league with nine sacks last year.

The Dukes are every bit as strong offensively behind the 2006 MAAC Offensive co-Player of the Year, Bruce Hocker. He made 61 catches for 1,070 yards and 16 scores from his wideout position last season.

Getting the ball to Hocker will be junior quarterback Scott Knapp, who broke school records for completions and accuracy last year. His 209 completions on 351 attempts gave him a 59.5 percentage.

The only concern on the offensive side will be finding a starter at running back. It should be junior Dennis Void, who gained 170 yards on 49 carries a year ago. He'll go to work behind an offensive line that was inexperienced entering last season, but now returns intact with three all-conference selections, led by first-team center Matt Stansfield.

It was Iona that finally completed the difficult task of knocking off Duquesne in 2006. If that feat is to take place again this season, the most qualified candidate is **Marist** (4-7, 3-1), which has lost only to the Dukes in each of its past three seasons in the MAAC. Duquesne's misstep last year enabled the Red Foxes to earn a share of the MAAC regular-season crown for the first time since 1994.

While Marist has holes to fill, its offensive backfield is among the best in the league. That will hold particularly true if 5-11, 220-pound running back Obozua Ehikioya is fully recovered from the wrist injury that ended his season midway through Marist's second game of 2006. He finished with 111 yards on 28 carries after gaining 1,017 yards as a sophomore.

Teams won't be able to key on Ehikioya, because senior quarterback Stephen McGrath (151-for-239, 2,014 yards passing) is also a threat, and he has a big target in 6-4 senior Tim Keegan (22 catches last season). Ehikioya will share the rushing load with senior Adam Hanson, who had four touchdowns in a game against St. Peter's last year, and sophomore O'Neil Anderson, who turned in a breakout performance against Georgetown late in the campaign.

The Red Foxes will rely on an offensive line anchored by senior Dan Cooper, a first-team all-conference selection in 2006.

Defensively, Marist has one of the top MAAC corners in senior Dan Diaz and the league's best punter in senior Brad Rowe (35.7-yard average). Although the defense allowed 346.7 yards per game last year, it should be significantly better with four returnees who earned second-team all-conference honors.

Iona (3-7, 2-2) suffered some serious losses from the squad that stunned Duquesne a season ago, especially on offense, where seven starters are gone.

But co-Offensive Player-of-the-Year Dane Samuels returns after leading the conference with 698 rushing yards in 10 games. Samuels also had 30 catches and averaged 27.4 yards on 16 kick returns. Quarterback Dustin Croick, who completed 135 passes for 1,477 yards last year, is back as well.

Defensively, the Gaels allowed just 232 yards per game in 2006, third among I-AA teams. The unit graduated its top two linemen but returns nine players who started at least one game a year ago.

Among them are standout linebackers Jared Scotto and Andrew Lipski and defensive backs Reggie Dorsainvil, Ed Loscalzo and Matt McGuire—all first-team all-league picks last year.

After scoring one touchdown or fewer in four of its first nine games, **La Salle** (3-7, 1-3) showed some late-season offensive punch in its season-ending 37-28 victory over Saint Peter's, which might have been a sign of things to come.

The Explorers had 10 freshmen start at least one game last year and brought in another solid recruiting class, led by running back Deric Dudinski, Virginia's Class AA High School Player of the Year last season. He will see plenty of time, as Dave Macknet is Iona's top returning rusher with 101 yards.

The offense is otherwise solid, led by sophomore quarterback Chris Hanson (98-for-163, 973 yards passing). Hanson completed 28 of 36 throws for 322 yards in the season finale with Saint Peter's. His prime target will likely be junior Shane Kendrick.

Half of Iona's eight leading tacklers return, led by linebackers Stephante Kent (47) and Casey Walsh (46) and defensive end Brian Winn (39).

Saint Peter's (1-3, 2-8) also showed enough a year ago to indicate things could be better this season—but only if the team can find a running game to complement its passing attack. The Peacocks produced 2,480 yards through the air but managed a net of just 379 yards with their ground attack.

This means the aerial attack will be important again, and the Peacocks have a good one with quarterback Scott Bonnono (241-of-431, 2,470 yards, 15 TDs) at the helm.

Defensively, the Peacocks' key players are linebacker Jerome Gordon, the MAAC co-Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2006, and defensive backs Jahmer Reynolds, Rashid Smith and Anthony Bey.

MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Predictions

1 Hampton
2 South Carolina State
3 Florida A&M
4 Delaware State
5 Morgan State
6 Bethune-Cookman
7 Howard
8 Norfolk State
9 North Carolina A&T

Top Players

OFFENSE	Albert Chester II, *QB, Florida A&M*
DEFENSE	Bobbie Williams, *DB, Bethune-Cookman*
NEWCOMER	Emmanuel Ware, *LB, Bethune-Cookman*

GAME TO WATCH

10/20/07:
South Carolina State @ Hampton

South Carolina State handed the Pirates their first conference loss in two years last season, holding them without a touchdown in a 13-6 win. This year's game will be during Hampton's homecoming.

MEAC

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I-AA

Despite numerous losses to the NFL, Hampton is still master of the MEAC

By **LUT WILLIAMS**, *Black College Sports Page*

How Hampton Coach Joe Taylor has been able to produce three consecutive Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship teams was on full display at this year's NFL Combine. Five of Taylor's seniors received invitations and showed off their talents before a bevy of NFL scouts. Their showing garnered feature stories from *USA Today*, the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*.

While the attention and exposure points to the quality of players Taylor is recruiting at Hampton, it also means the Pirates have some big holes to fill as they try to win their fourth consecutive title.

But Taylor has plenty left in the fold and restocked the talent pool with another great recruiting year. Where the Pirates will be short this year is in experience, which may create openings for the teams chasing them: South Carolina State, Delaware State and Florida A&M, which all have veteran QBs at the controls.

Morgan State made some strides last season and finished just outside the top four, tied with Howard, and was the only MEAC team to make a coaching change in the offseason. Former Minnesota assistant Carey Bailey takes over the Bison with the departure of Ray Petty. Bethune-Cookman, Norfolk State and North Carolina A&T took steps backwards last season and will look to regroup.

Coach Joe Taylor countered the loss of seniors that were 26-4 in their four years at **Hampton** (10-2 overall, 7-1 MEAC) with a 19-member recruiting class that includes both defensive (linebacker Jacobi Fenner) and offensive (tailback Dennis Mathis) players of the year from the talent-rich Tidewater, Va., area.

Redshirt sophomore TJ Mitchell (372 yards, 3 TDs) takes over at QB while Kevin Beverly (746, 12) moves into the starting tailback role. Jeremy Gilchrist (19 receptions, 209 yards) and Kevin Teel are the top receivers.

The strength of the team is the defensive line, which features three All-MEAC-caliber players—defensive ends Kendall Langford (55 tackles, 8 sacks) and Marcus Dixon (25, 4) and lineman Vernon Bryant.

South Carolina State (7-4, 6-2) bounced back from losing three of its first four games to win six of its final seven, including handing Hampton its only conference loss (13-6) in mid-October.

Gone is 1,200-plus-yard rusher and MEAC Offensive Player of the Year DeShawn Baker, but waiting in the wings is dangerous sophomore William Ford, who rambled for 752 yards and 10 scores as a freshman. Quarterback Cleveland McCoy (1,224 passing yards, 10 TDs, 420 rushing yards, 5 TDs) returns for his junior season along with wideouts Dustin Dubose and Terrance Smith.

You could almost count the seniors on last year's **Florida A&M** (7-4, 5-3) squad on one hand, yet the Rattlers managed to finish fourth.

With a host of returning players led on offense by second-team All-MEAC QB Albert Chester II, the league's passing (18 TDs) leader, and all-conference defenders in end Tyrone McGriff, cornerback Jason Beach (70 tackles, 4 INTs) and linebacker Vernon Wilder (89 tackles), the Rattlers appear poised to take steps up the ladder.

Willie Hayward (5 TDs) returns to lead a deep receiving group. Redshirt junior Anthony Edwards (536 yards, 5 TDs) and sophomore Deitric Henry (435 yards) head a stable of running backs. All-conference punter Wesley Taylor is also the league's top returning placekicker.

The only thing that kept **Delaware State** (8-3, 6-2) from tying for the conference title was a season-ending loss to Howard that came a week after starting QB Vashon Winton (1,171 passing yards, 10 TDs) went down with a broken ankle. Winton sat out spring practice but should be ready by the fall. His primary weapon is first-team All-MEAC wideout Shaheer McBride (11 TDs).

Coach Al Lavan lost several starters on defense but returns linebackers Russell Reeves, who led the team in tackles (85), and Kelly Rouse (47).

Ten returning starters on offense and eight on defense boost the prospects of **Morgan State** (5-6, 4-4) getting into contention for a conference title this season.

The job of ratcheting up an offense that scored just 18.1 points per game last year will fall to sophomore QB Mario Melton (5 TDs, 9 INTs), who needs to improve his decision-making and make better use of talented tailback Chad Simpson (795 yards, 9 TDs) and receiver Roderick Wolfe.

All-MEAC defensive end Terrell Floyd and tackles Dominique Laurent and Anthony Young are the stalwarts up front.

Alvin Wyatt's **Bethune-Cookman** (4-7, 3-5) Wildcats suffered a tough year, including their first shutout loss since 1997. The way back to prominence starts with senior QB Jimmie Russell (1,139 passing yards, 9 TDs).

Cornerback Bobbie Williams led the team in interceptions (6) last year. A senior-laden defense is also led by linebackers Rodney Hughes (42 tackles, 7 sacks) and Ronnie McCollough (73 tackles) and tackle Dennis King. Emmanuel Ware is a prep defensive talent.

A strong defense propelled **Howard** (5-6, 4-4) to wins in four of its final five games and will be the strong suit for the 2007 squad headed by new Coach Carey Bailey. Returning all-conference defensive end Rudolph Hardie (9.5) led the MEAC in sacks last year.

The offense struggled last season, scoring just 23 TDs in 11 games. The good news is the receiving corps may be the most talented on the team, led by Jarahn Williams, Larry Duncan and Arlandus Hood. Brian Johnson, who quarterbacked the Bison during their stretch drive, will have to prove himself against challengers Floyd Haigler and Darrell Turner. Karlos Whittaker (295 yards, 3 TDs) gets first crack as the primary ball-carrier.

Despite not improving on its 4-7 2005 record and winning one less conference game, it would be fair to say **Norfolk State** (4-7, 1-7) didn't take a step back in Coach Pete Adrian's second season. Three of its conference losses were by three points or less. To continue making strides, QB Casey Hansen (10 TDs, 16 INTs) needs to improve. Linebacker Maguell Davis (84 tackles) patrols the middle in a defense that also features corner Terrell Whitehead.

There were not many bright spots for **North Carolina A&T** (0-11, 0-8) during a winless 2006 season. Coach Lee Fobbs' young Aggies were outscored by an average of 43-10, holding only three teams below 40 points.

Curtis Walls and André Garth are an experienced receiving tandem. Wayne Campbell (9 TDs, 17 INTs), who took most of the snaps at QB last year, will be challenged by Herbert Miller this season.

GAME TO WATCH

11/10/07:
Albany @ Monmouth

After losing 19-0 in the season finale to Monmouth—and with it a chance at the NEC title—Albany will surely be looking for revenge against the Hawks.

Top Players

OFFENSE	David Sinisi, *RB, Monmouth*
DEFENSE	Colin Disch, *LB, Albany*
NEWCOMER	Terrell Dobbins, *RB, Albany*

Predictions

1. Albany
2. Monmouth
3. Central Connecticut State
4. Robert Morris
5. Wagner
6. Sacred Heart
7. Saint Francis (Pa.)

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE NEC

NORTHEAST

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I-AA

Great Danes geared to run with I-AA big dogs

By **STEVE AMEDIO**, *Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette*

The Northeast Conference not only continues to get stronger—particularly with the agreement two years ago for its members to offer up to 30 football scholarships apiece—but it also retains relative parity, at least among its better teams.

Last year, five of the eight members finished with better-than-.500 conference records. Although one of those, Stony Brook (5-2), has left the NEC for the Big South Conference, it will be replaced by longtime Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference power Duquesne in 2008.

At least four, maybe five, of this year's seven league members should remain strong, despite heavy losses throughout the conference in terms of individual talent. More NEC players drew at least some interest from NFL scouts in 2006 than ever before.

Albany (7-4, 5-2 NEC) earned arguably the best victory in the program's history in 2006 with a 17-10 shocker over Delaware, which was ranked 11th nationally in I-AA at the time. However, the Great Danes then lost the NEC title when they dropped a 19-0 decision to Monmouth in the season finale.

Albany had one of the best defenses nationally in 2006, ranking among the top five in three categories, including points allowed (13.0 per game). The defense should be just as strong this year, as linebacker Colin Disch, a two-time winner of the NEC's Defensive Player of the Year, returns. Returning starters Trevor DuPont and Mark Peretore will join Disch at linebacker.

On the line is defensive tackle Michael Dungey, a first-team All-NEC performer last season.

Although graduation hit the secondary hard, junior safety Dave Nicomini will be the cornerstone.

In the offseason, veteran Coach Bob Ford made some changes to the offense to improve a unit that ranked seventh of the eight NEC teams in total yards in 2006.

Among the most drastic is the move of last year's quarterback, junior Daniel Bocanegra, to flanker and handing over the signal-calling duties to sophomore Frank Blasinsky.

The offensive line returns Sam Pagano, a second-team All-NEC pick last year.

Omar Johnson (435 yards, 7 TDs) is the top returning rusher, and incoming freshman Terrell Dobbins could be an impact player at some point this season.

After winning the NEC a year ago, **Monmouth** (10-2, 6-1) loses nine first- or second-team All-NEC players to graduation.

The biggest hole to fill is at quarterback, where senior Brett Burke will be called on to replace four-year starter Brian Boland.

The Hawks' ground game will be powered by NEC Offensive-Rookie-of-the-Year David Sinisi, who averaged at least one touchdown a game last season.

But a year after limiting opponents to 152 total points (12.7 per game), tops in I-AA last season, the Hawks' defense is almost certain to take a step back with the loss of nine starters. The only returning regulars are senior linebacker T.J. Cerezo and senior defensive back Ayo Falae.

After sharing back-to-back league championships in 2004 and '05, **Central Connecticut State** (8-3, 4-3) didn't fall far in 2006, finishing just two games behind first-place Monmouth.

If the Blue Devils want to continue to challenge for the conference crown, though, they'll need to find a replacement for tailback Justise Hairston.

There is a solid candidate in place in redshirt junior Jo Jo Freeman, who gained 193 yards on 52 carries playing behind Hairston in 2006.

The team is also well set at quarterback, particularly if Aubrey Norris returns fully healthy after playing just three games last season. In his absence, Ryan Holmes was more than competent.

Defensively, several standouts return, most notably defensive back Anthony Wilson and senior linebacker Chris Stimmel, both second-team All-NEC picks in 2006.

Former NFL New York Jets head man Joe Walton is the only coach **Robert Morris** (7-4, 5-2) has had in its playing existence. Entering the program's 15th year, the Colonials have five NEC crowns and are always competitive.

Don't expect that to change this year, particularly with the young cast from 2006 coming back with a year's experience. Quarterback Erik Cwalinski, a junior, threw for 2,066 yards and 19 touchdowns last year, while sophomore Brian Harden led the Robert Morris ground attack with 399 yards as a freshman.

The Colonials did lose their top two pass catchers from last year, but seniors Mario Hines (23 catches) and Alvin Hill (21) should fill in nicely.

Defensively, Robert Morris also has key returnees in senior linebacker Chad Wengert and senior defensive back James Kazil, both second-team All-NEC performers last season.

Wagner (4-7, 0-7) didn't lose a non-conference game in 2006, but it couldn't win one in the NEC, either.

Junior quarterback Matt Abbey now has a full year's experience, a standout target in sophomore Lon Woods and a productive running back in Jason Butler.

Defensive back Al Phillips was a first-team All-NEC pick last year, while linebacker Thomas Larsen was third on the team in tackles (78).

If **Sacred Heart** (2-9, 1-6) is to improve this season, it needs to find a replacement for graduated quarterback Tyler Arciaga, the school's all-time leader in passing yards. No other player threw a pass completion for the Pioneers last season. Junior Dennis Conrad, who appeared in only two games in 2006, looks to be Arciaga's replacement.

The Pioneers do have some quality pieces elsewhere on offense with their top two rushers returning—senior Jason Payne and junior Evin Jones—along with leading receiver Corey Bundy.

On defense, the Pioneers return junior safety Steve Young, junior linebacker Rich Marrone and junior cornerback Jeff Hodges.

Optimism reigned last year for **Saint Francis (Pa.)**, but the Red Flash (3-8, 2-5) won't be anywhere near as potent this season after losing the conference's all-time leading passer (Anthony Doria), their top two receivers (Michael Caputo and Luke Palko) and tailback Todd Harris.

Saint Francis will try to regroup under the guidance of sophomore QB George Little, who threw only five passes last year. Little's top target will be junior Antoine Rivera. The team's top returning running back is senior Anthony Richards.

Defensively, the team's leading tacklers return in junior defensive back Andrew Ardestani (82) and senior linebacker Fehi Sevelo (66).

Predictions

1	Eastern Illinois	6	Tennessee Tech
2	Tennessee-Martin	7	Southeast Missouri
3	Eastern Kentucky	8	Murray State
4	Tennessee State	9	Samford
5	Jacksonville State	10	Austin Peay

Top Players

OFFENSE	Donald Chapman, *RB, Tennessee-Martin*
DEFENSE	Donald Thomas, *LB, Eastern Illinois*
NEWCOMER	Aaron Jones, *DE, Eastern Kentucky*

GAME TO WATCH

11/07/07:
Austin Peay @ Murray State

Austin Peay lost its three games against OVC competition last year, while the Racers haven't won one in two seasons. Somebody's got to win.

OHIO VALLEY

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I-AA

Spoo doesn't expect to lose in return to EIU

By **MICHAEL GRANT**, *The (Louisville) Courier-Journal*

It should be another interesting year in the Ohio Valley Conference, with plenty of compelling storylines.

Two-time defending conference champion Eastern Illinois will welcome legendary Coach Bob Spoo back after dealing with medical issues during the 2006 season. Eastern Kentucky quarterback Josh Greco, the 2005 OVC Offensive Player of the Year, is battling for his starting job. Murray State is looking to end a 15-game conference losing streak. The OVC welcomes back Austin Peay for first time since 1996, while Samford, after joining the league in 2003, will leave for the Southern Conference in 2008.

Eastern Illinois (8-5, 7-1 OVC) had to win the conference championship with their coach sidelined for the season. The 70-year-old Bob Spoo is expected back this season after recovering from an undisclosed medical procedure. Considered the dean of OVC coaches, Spoo will try to get his program to its third straight conference title. The last OVC team to turn that trick was Eastern Kentucky (1986-88).

Eastern Illinois has 15 starters back, including eight on defense. The best returnee is linebacker Donald Thomas, the 2006 OVC Defensive Player of the Year.

The biggest question mark could be the offensive line, which has only two starters back in first-team All-OVC right tackle Anthony Rubican and left guard Drew Cairo-Gross. If the offensive line holds up, the offense should be solid. Senior quarterback Cole Stinson will get the ball early and often to junior wide receiver Micah Rucker, who led the conference in receiving yards (966) and touchdown catches (13) last season.

Tennessee-Martin (9-3, 6-1) enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2006 by winning its first-ever OVC title, sharing it with Eastern Illinois, and reaching the I-AA playoffs. On offense, the Skyhawks can rely on senior running back Donald Chapman, who led the conference and was 10th in the nation for rushing with 128.4 yards a game. Chapman also set a school record with 1,412 yards last season.

Defensively, leading tackler Nate Wilson, who finished fourth in the OVC for stops (48) among linemen, returns. If the Skyhawks' rebuilt defense holds up again in 2007 after leading the OVC in total yards allowed (255.5) last year, then Jason Simpson might earn consecutive Coach-of-the-Year awards.

It seems like every year **Eastern Kentucky** (6-5, 5-3) has quarterback issues. Senior Josh Greco is going to have to fight for his job against Allan Holland.

Greco's precipitous drop was puzzling. In 2005, he enjoyed one of the most productive passing seasons in Colonels history with 2,861 yards and 25 touchdowns. Last year, those numbers fell to 1,834 yards and 10 scores. Greco was still the starter at the end of the year, but he shared playing time with Holland, a Wake Forest transfer. Greco attributed his slump to a sprained ligament in his right index finger of his throwing hand, coupled with a broken toe on his left foot.

Whoever takes the snaps, though, will have plenty of weapons with running backs Mark Dunn and Bobby Washington and wide receivers Quinton Williams and Kyle Barber returning.

After spending the previous two seasons near the conference basement, **Tennessee State** (6-5, 5-2) finished a surprising third in 2006. With four All-OVC performers back in quarterback Antonio Heffner, running back Javarris Williams, offensive lineman Cecil Newton and defensive back Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, the Tigers could be in line to win their first conference title since 1999.

Heffner was second in the OVC for passing yards per game (185.3) and his development will be greatly aided by Williams, who rushed for 1,233 yards last season. Rodgers-Cromartie collected a conference-high six interceptions.

It's tough to bet against **Jacksonville State** (6-5, 5-3). However, it seems like the rest of the conference is starting to catch up. After winning back-to-back championships (2003-04), the Gamecocks have finished third and fourth, respectively, over the past two years.

The offense should be tough to stop again with return of quarterback Matt Hardin. Last season he directed the highest-scoring squad in the conference (25.9 points per game). Jacksonville State also has a promising junior-college transfer in Cedric Johnson, who threw five touchdown passes in the spring game. Johnson originally signed with Illinois out of high school, but spent the past two seasons at Copiah-Lincoln (Miss.) Community College. Coach Jack Crowe already compares Johnson with former Gamecock All-American Montressa Kirby.

Tennessee Tech (4-7, 4-4) has a new coach in Watson Brown, who is familiar with league opponents, having been the head coach at Austin Peay (1979-80) and an assistant at Jacksonville State (1976-77). Brown, the former UAB head coach, is also returning to his hometown of Cookeville.

Tech returns the OVC's top passer in Lee Sweeney, who threw for 2,292 yards as a freshman.

Coach Tony Samuel is in his second season of rebuilding **Southeast Missouri** (4-7, 2-6). The Redhawks showed remarkable improvement last year after finishing 2-9 overall in 2005. They are searching for a quarterback to replace Kevin Ballatore. Southeast Missouri has a trio of candidates in Houston Lillard, Steve Callanan and Victor Anderson, who have exactly zero experience.

Murray State (1-10, 0-8) hasn't won a conference game in two years and will be young again as a total 57 freshmen and sophomores return. The biggest improvement must come from a defense that yielded 35.1 points and 430.4 yards per game last season—both worst in the league.

Samford (3-8, 1-7) could be bullied in its final season in the OVC before leaving for the Southern Conference in 2008. First-year Coach Pat Sullivan will try to guide the team through the transition. The 1971 Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback from Auburn and former UAB assistant will try to fix a stagnant offense, which averaged a league-worst 15.1 points per game last season.

Austin Peay's (3-8) return to the OVC will also be marked by the presence of a new coach. Rick Christophel replaces Carroll McCray, who left to become an assistant at Furman. Christophel, an Austin Peay alum, had been an assistant at UAB. The Governors lost all three games they played against OVC opponents last year.

GAME TO WATCH

11/10/07:
Lafayette @ Holy Cross

This second-to-last game of the season could have playoff implications for both teams. Last season, Holy Cross shocked the Leopards, the 2006 league champs, 38-28 on Lafayette's home turf.

Top Players

OFFENSE	Dominic Randolph, *QB, Holy Cross*
DEFENSE	Andy Romans, *LB, Lafayette*
NEWCOMER	Marques Morgan, *LB, Bucknell*

Predictions

1. Holy Cross
2. Lehigh
3. Lafayette
4. Colgate
5. Bucknell
6. Fordham
7. Georgetown

PATRIOT LEAGUE

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I-AA

Holy Cross primed to end Leopards' run

By **ED LAUBACH**
Easton (Pa.) Express-Times

Holy Cross came close to creating major upheaval in the Patriot League last year, capping a five-game winning streak by upsetting three-time defending champion Lafayette. But the Crusaders lost two of their final three contests and finished one game out of first place.

"We blew it at the end of the season," recalls Crusaders Coach Tom Gilmore.

Lehigh and Holy Cross have the experienced quarterbacks, Colgate the league's top rusher and Lafayette, with three consecutive appearances in the I-AA playoffs, the swagger—despite having to replace seven all-league first- and second-team players.

"We're trying to maintain our king-of-the-hill status," Lafayette Coach Frank Tavani says. "There is more work to be done; we've got to keep this thing going. We expect to win another championship, and then win a playoff game ... and a second, and a third and a fourth. ..."

Lafayette can become the first league team to make the playoffs in four consecutive years since Lehigh did so from 1998-2001.

Holy Cross will ride a productive young quarterback in Dominic Randolph, who led the league in total offense last season (258.4 yards per game). The Crusaders have a fleet of talented wideouts and return their secondary intact, bolstered by first-team all-league cornerback Casey Gough, a four-year starter.

"Gough's return is a huge, huge thing," says Coach Tom Gilmore.

And then there is the league's reigning Coach of the Year, Gilmore, who has his club poised to win the school's first league championship since 1991.

Randolph was injured in the 2006 opener and didn't return until the fifth week, when, in his first full college game, he was named the league's Offensive Player of the Week—the first of four in a row. For the season, he passed for 2,237 yards for a league-best 19 touchdowns with six interceptions, throwing primarily to Ryan Maher (797 yards, 6 touchdowns), Thomas Harrison (569, 4) and Brett McDermott (39, 518, 4).

Lehigh was No. 1 in the league in scoring offense, scoring defense and turnover margin last year, but was second behind Lafayette for the league's NCAA playoff bid after a 49-27 loss to the Leopards in college football's most-played rivalry. The Mountain Hawks' second-year coach, Andy Coen, is armed with three-year starter Sedale Threatt, the league's top returning quarterback and son of the former Philadelphia 76ers basketball star.

Threatt completed 61.4 percent of his passes for 2,008 yards and 14 touchdowns with five interceptions last season. Junior Jason Leo led the league in scoring as a kicker and punted for a 37.8-yard average.

Lehigh isn't without challenges up front, however. Coen will have three new defensive linemen and four new linebackers in his 3-4 defense. Most of the secondary does return, led by cornerback Julian Ahye and free safety Ernest Moore.

The six league championships **Lafayette** has won always featured proven performers at quarterback and running back. Coach Frank Tavani doesn't seem overly concerned with last year's backup, Maurice White, taking over at tailback and Mike DiPaola, a senior who paid his dues on the scout team, now at quarterback.

The six returning offensive starters include receiver Shaun Adair, who had 501 yards and four TDs in 2006.

Defensive tackle Kyle Sprenkle, outside linebacker Andy Romans and cornerback Adrian Lawson were all-league second-team picks last fall. Romans' 109 tackles led the Leopards and ranked fourth in the league. Among Sprenkle's 61 tackles were 13.5 for losses with four sacks.

Coach Dick Biddle accepted responsibility for his first losing season (4-7) in 11 years at **Colgate**, vowing this year's squad will get back to playing harder and with more focus.

The offense begins with junior tailback Jordan Scott, who has rushed for a school-record 2,598 yards in his first two seasons. Biddle and his staff went into the preseason unable to identify a new starter at quarterback. Erik Burke, a second-team All-Patriot wideout last year, leads the receiving corps, and the Raiders may have the Patriot's top tight end in Brent Dillingham, who's healthy for the first time in his career.

The Raiders also return veterans on the defensive line and All-America linebacker Mike Gallihugh, whose 140 tackles led Division I-AA.

Despite an improvement from 1-10 in 2005 to 6-5 last season at **Bucknell**, the Bison appear to be at least a year away. Seven freshmen were starting at the end of the season, and more than 60 players are underclassmen.

Coach Tim Landis' ground-oriented, spread-option offense took its usual toll on the Bison quarterbacks last year, as two went down, leaving freshman Marcello Trigg to start the last six games.

The return of some good, young offensive skill talent—fullback Josh DeStefano, running backs A.J. Kizekai and Rashod Bumpers, and wideouts Daniel Zvara and Cale Cadman—is balanced with the loss of three linemen. DeStefano was the Bison's leading rusher and a second-team all-league pick.

The defense, worst in the league a year ago, should be improved with the return of the entire line and linebacker Sam Nana-Sinkam, a freshman who burst onto the scene in 2006, recording 85 tackles.

Fordham provided its fans with a glimmer of hope at the end of a 3-8 season—Tom Masella's first as the Rams' coach—by storming back from a 21-10 halftime deficit to defeat Georgetown 38-30. Freshmen crashed Senior Day that afternoon as quarterback John Skelton passed for 288 yards and two scores and tailback Larry Dortch rushed for 127 yards and three TDs.

The Rams ranked worst in the league in total and red-zone offense and third-down conversions, were the most penalized and allowed the most sacks. But punter Benjamin Dato was named All-Patriot first team, averaging 44.6 yards. Other returning players include the Rams' top wideout, Sylvester Clarke, plus inside linebacker Earl Hudnell and cornerback Sam Orah.

Georgetown, which ranked at or near the bottom last year in total offense and turnover ratio, took at least two positive steps during the 2006 season with the emergence of Matt Bassuener at quarterback and tailback Charlie Houghton, who became the program's first player to win an award when he was named Patriot League Rookie of the Year. Houghton became a starter late in the season, rushing for 403 yards on 81 carries. Defensive players to watch include end Ataefiok Etukeren, linebacker Mike Greene and cornerback Kevin Cherepski.

pioneer football league

Predictions

1. San Diego
2. Drake
3. Davidson
4. Dayton
5. Jacksonville
6. Morehead State
7. Butler
8. Valparaiso

Top Players

OFFENSE	Josh Johnson, *QB, San Diego*
DEFENSE	Eric Bakhtiari, *DE, San Diego*
NEWCOMER	Jarvis Williams, *LB, Jacksonville*

GAME TO WATCH

11/03/07:
San Diego @ Davidson

The PFL's top quarterbacks square off in Davidson's Ryan Alexander and USD's Josh Johnson. This might be the best chance to see the long unbeaten streak of the Toreros end.

PIONEER LEAGUE

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I-AA

Life after Harbaugh should still be sweet for USD

By **MIKE GIGLIO**, *Street & Smith's* Editorial Intern

When Jim Harbaugh bolted for the head-coaching job at Stanford this winter, the rest of the Pioneer Football League exhaled in a collective sigh of relief. In his short tenure at the helm of the Toreros, Harbaugh turned the PFL upside down, bringing premier talent and considerable swagger to a program long relegated to a back seat behind traditional powers Dayton and Drake.

San Diego was 14-1 in the league during Harbaugh's three seasons, winning back-to-back titles in addition to last year's inaugural Gridiron Classic victory over Northeast Conference champion Monmouth. The Toreros outpaced the competition by at least two touchdowns in all seven PFL matchups.

Ron Caragher has lofty expectations to meet after leaving his post as running backs coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Kentucky to run the show in San Diego, and the rest of the league is anxious to gain ground. But the Toreros return core players from top-ranked units on both sides of the ball and threaten to build on their two-year undefeated streak in the league.

"They're clearly the team to beat," says Drake Coach Ron Ash.

Ash's Bulldogs placed second a year ago and again figure to be in the foreground of a PFL picture that is difficult to discern after the top spot. Davidson has made considerable strides under Tripp Merritt and will continue to challenge, as could a talented, young Jacksonville squad. Dayton, after its first losing season in Coach Mike Kelly's 26-year tenure, figures to have a say as well.

Campbell University will shake things up in 2008 when the Camels join the PFL. The small Baptist school in Buies Creek, N.C., is reestablishing its football program after a 57-year hiatus.

For at least another year, no team should compete with **San Diego**. New Coach Ron Caragher will offer less hubris than his predecessor, but the Toreros haven't lost their high-profile firepower.

They will continue to overwhelm defenses behind the strong arm of senior quarterback Josh Johnson, the reigning PFL Offensive Player of the Year. Johnson led the league in passing yards (3,320), touchdowns (34) and efficiency (169.0) last year, and he produced on the ground as well (720 rushing yards, 11 scores). He and junior running back JT Rogan (1,002 yards, 14 TDs) spearhead an attack that put up 494.2 yards and 42.8 points a game in 2006. Senior linemen Jordan PaoPao and Gabe DeAnda, both first-team All-PFL selections, are back as well.

The league's Co-Defensive Player of the Year, Eric Bakhtiari, who led the PFL with eight sacks and 22 tackles for loss from the end position, returns for his senior year along with junior defensive back Patrick O'Neill (5 INTs). The Toreros allowed just 12.9 points per game in 2006.

Drake loses some key players from last season's second-ranked PFL defense and has holes to fill at linebacker and on the defensive line. Senior safety Jacob Craig is a big hitter (40 solo tackles in 2006) and will lead the secondary, along with junior Andy Green, who topped the league with five interceptions for 131 yards and a score last year.

The Bulldogs will rely on their dynamic backfield of senior fullback Willie Cashmore and senior tailback Scott Phaydavong, who rushed for a league-leading 1,613 yards last year, to maintain their grind-it-out style against the league's fast-paced offenses.

Tripp Merritt took a share of PFL Coach-of-the-Year honors in his second season at **Davidson**, as the Wildcats posted their best league mark since going 5-2 in the Southern Conference in 1969. They lived and died by the play of senior quarterback Ryan Alexander (2,581 yards, 21 TDs, 10 picks), dropping both of his multiple-interception PFL games. The 'Cats will lean even harder on Alexander in the absence of workhorse back Jonathan Hubbard, but Merritt thinks the winner of the three-back committee vying to replace him—headed by junior Chad Barne—should give the offense an extra step.

On defense, first-team All-PFL senior Patrick Fitzgerald (4 INTs) and junior Matt Easton will be patrolling the secondary with senior free safety Zach Long.

Dayton was plagued by injuries and inconsistencies in 2006, with four of its six PFL losses coming by a touchdown or less. With senior quarterback Kevin Hoyng (2,052 yards, 11 TDs, 8 INTs) returning to build on his school records, the offense will manage, but it needs to replace two seniors at receiver.

The defense returns seven starters and should be stellar behind the play of senior safety Brandon Cramer (52 tackles, 3 INTs) and linebacker Brian Kelly, who returns as a fifth-year senior after leading the PFL with 101 tackles in 2006.

Kerwin Bell takes over coaching duties at **Jacksonville** and must reinvent an injury-plagued defense that ranked last in the league a year ago. The former University of Florida quarterback has the players to make it happen, especially in the secondary where the Dolphins return sophomore Jason Wood (65 tackles) and juniors Aaron Woods (55) and Robson Noel (13 passes defended).

The offense will suffer without running back Jerry Brant, who played an integral part in the team's four conference wins in 2006. Junior quarterback Chris Horton (1,899 yards, 15 TDs, 11 INTs) needs to find a go-to target, as no Dolphins receiver had more than 30 catches a year ago.

Morehead State dropped a close PFL Championship Game to end the 2005 season, and the Eagles weren't the same in 2006. They lost their first five contests before finally beating Dayton in October. Now, top running back Jabari McGee is lost to graduation, and streaky senior quarterback Brian Yost will try to make do without a strong supporting cast.

Things may be looking up for a **Butler** program that has struggled for years. Coach Jeff Voris returns 15 starters from a team that went 3-8 overall (2-5 PFL) in his first season, matching the Bulldogs' win total from the previous three years. The Marzotto brothers return to lead the defense for their senior seasons. Defensive end Chris had seven sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss in 2006, while Mike was third in the PFL with 91 tackles at linebacker.

Valparaiso is coming off its third straight year with just one league win but will look forward to a boost from senior Jeff Horton, the school's career rushing leader who's coming back from a season-ending injury in 2006. Junior Steve Ogden might be the best receiver in the league; he led the PFL with 1,048 yards and scored eight times.

GAME TO WATCH

10/27/07:
Appalachian State @ Furman

ASU Coach Jerry Moore puts this matchup, which likely will decide the Southern yet again, in simple terms: "It'll be huge, without any doubt. It's always been that way. Furman is the measuring stick as far as longevity."

Top Players

OFFENSE	Kevin Richardson, *RB, Appalachian State*
DEFENSE	Andrew Jones, *LB, Furman*
NEWCOMER	Mike Hamilton, *RB, Georgia Southern*

Predictions

1. Appalachian State
2. Furman
3. Wofford
4. The Citadel
5. Georgia Southern
6. Chattanooga
7. Elon
8. Western Carolina

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I-AA

Gap shortened in Southern, but everyone's still trying to climb and reach the Mountaineers

By **MATT McKENZIE**, *Street & Smith's* Staff Writer

It seems that every year, one of the middle-tier Southern Conference teams pulls off a few upsets, followed by a label of true challenger to what has been known as "The Big Three." Since 1993, only two other schools besides Appalachian State, Furman or Georgia Southern have won the Southern Conference title: Marshall (1994 and '96), now in Conference USA, and Wofford (2003). And while Georgia Southern has fallen on hard times recently (more on that later), ASU and Furman don't show any signs of relinquishing the top spots.

The Mountaineers have won consecutive Southern titles for the first time since 1986-87. More importantly, Appalachian State has also captured consecutive I-AA national championships during that span as well. As the team begins its quest for an unprecedented three-peat, ASU Coach Jerry Moore says playing in a tough conference always helps prepare for the postseason.

"I think it's a classic example of week-to-week football," Moore says. "You better get ready to play every ballgame. Every team is well-coached and has talent. There's no easy game on the schedule. The minute you let your guard down, you're probably going to get blistered. Our job as a staff is to not let the players get that way."

If the Mountaineers do falter, the Paladins will be poised to jump to the top. As is the norm in Greenville, S.C., Coach Bobby Lamb has put together a solid defense and an offense that can move the chains with the best of them when healthy. No matter who wins the conference, both ASU and Furman are likely to earn postseason bids for the third straight year.

As for the Eagles, they'll be on their third coach in as many seasons after Brian VanGorder jumped ship for an NFL assistant's job with the Atlanta Falcons. A 3-8 season, Georgia Southern's worst in school history, wasn't exactly winning him votes with the Statesboro faithful anyway. The Eagles stayed in-state, dropped down and plucked Chris Hatcher from Division II Valdosta State to try and right the program.

Oh, and those previously mentioned challengers? This season, it looks to be Wofford and The Citadel, which both return numerous key players on offense and defense. But if that'll be enough to topple the current stronghold at the top by ASU and Furman remains to be seen.

Appalachian State will once again present a nightmare for opposing defensive coordinators with the duo of quarterback Armanti Edwards and running back Kevin Richardson. The two combined for 45 touchdowns and more than 2,800 yards on the ground last year. Richardson's 30 scores set a new I-AA record. During his freshman season, Edwards also became just the fifth NCAA player ever to record at least 2,000 passing yards and 1,000 rushing.

Both players will run behind a line that includes All-America guard Kerry Brown and All-Southern center Scott Suttle. However, the Mountaineers must replace most of their receiving corps, including tight end Daniel Bettis and wide receiver William Mayfield, an All-SoCon performer who had 1,129 yards last year. Senior Dexter Jackson (470 yards, 3 TDs), also ASU's return specialist, will get more passes thrown his way.

On defense, the question revolves around who replaces All-America defensive end Marques Murrell, who led the Southern with 13 sacks and six forced fumbles in 2006. Coming out of spring, it looks to be sophomore Tony Robertson. Sophomore Gary Tharrington was in the same situation last year, having to fill the shoes of another All-America end, Jason Hunter. And all Tharrington did in his first season was finish tied for second in the conference with 7.5 sacks and earn a first-team All-SoCon nod. He returns to anchor the conference's top-rated defense last year, along with All-America defensive back Corey Lynch (league-leading 5 INTs, 83 tackles).

With 17 starters back, **Furman** is set for a strong run in both the Southern and national picture. The Paladins will need running back Jerome Felton (23 TDs) to stay healthy in order to be successful. Felton missed one game last year with an ankle injury that hampered him late in the season, as the senior netted just 87 combined yards in Furman's final three contests. Senior Cedrick Gipson, who led the team with 938 yards but scored only four touchdowns, adds another offensive weapon in the backfield. However, Furman must fill in spots for three lost starters along the offensive line.

Senior Renaldo Gray (who is a cousin of ASU's Edwards) returns at QB, where last year he threw for 1,184 yards but just four scores. Patrick Sprague is the top receiver back in a unit that could use improvement across the board. No Paladin wideout caught more than two touchdowns last season.

The Paladins, who ranked second in the conference for total defense last year, need to replace All-America end Roy Ravenell, with sophomore Jay Jay Mars winning the role for now. Furman's starting linebackers are all back, led by senior Andrew Jones, a two-time All-SoCon pick who led the team and was second in the conference last season with 121 tackles.

Wofford finished second in the Southern in scoring offense (29.9 points a game) and defense (19.4 ppg allowed) last year, yet had just a 7-4 record to show for it. Three of those four losses were by seven points or less. The Terriers lost just 10 seniors overall, and have the majority of their key starters back.

Among the returnees is quarterback Josh Collier and tailbacks Kevious Johnson and Michael Hobbs. That trio combined for 24 rushing tocuhdowns last season, with Collier adding five scores

KEITH CLINE

ARMANTI EDWARDS
QB, Appalachian State

through the air. However, the senior's passing yards per game (48.9) were lowest among all starting QBs in the conference last season.

The Terriers will benefit from the return of several key defensive players who had their seasons cut short by injury last year. Linebacker Kyle Horne (7.5 sacks) and end James Gonsoulin (6.0) lead a unit that topped the conference in turnover margin last year at plus-21, 10 more than any other team.

With a 5-6 record in 2006, **The Citadel** ran its consecutive streak without a winning season to 15 years. However, its 4-3 conference mark was the Bulldogs' best during that span, and there is reason for optimism this year, mainly resting on the arm of QB Duran Lawson.

A senior, Lawson finished second in the SoCon last season with 194.4 passing yards a game, totaling 2,138 and 14 touchdowns. The Bulldogs will miss the services of bruising tailback Nuru Goodrum (8 TDs), but have a very capable speedster in Tory Cooper, who led the team with 807 rushing yards and ranked fourth in the conference with 10 scores.

For The Citadel to be a legitimate conference contender this year, it must get better on the other side of the ball. Only one other Southern team gave up more points a game than the Bulldogs' 28.5 last season. Linebackers Joshua Lawson (95) and Andrew Rowell (88) both finished among the SoCon's top 10 in tackles last season, while defensive end Trevar Broughton tied for second overall with three forced fumbles.

After seeing its coach leave in each of the last two seasons, **Georgia Southern** will hope the third time's the charm with Chris Hatcher, who had a 76-12 record (including the 2004 Division II Championship) in seven seasons at Valdosta State. Hatcher will be in charge of making Eagle fans, who are used to winning, forget about the disastrous 2006 season.

In his three years with Georgia Southern, senior Jayson Foster has lined up at quarterback, tailback and wide receiver. This year, it looks as if Foster will get time at both running back and wideout along with being the return specialist, where he was voted an All-SoCon selection last season. Hatcher is bringing the spread offense he perfected at Valdosta State to the Eagles, and junior QB Travis Clark will get the first crack at running the show. The former Southern Miss transfer ranked third in the conference last year with 164.4 passing yards a game.

The Eagles should get a boost in the backfield with another transfer, Mike Hamilton, who was the 2006 Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year at Oklahoma State, rushing for 900 yards and four touchdowns. He sat out spring practice to focus on academics, but should be ready by the fall and will be a contender for starting tailback.

Hatcher is also making some shifts with his new players. Junior Chris Covington, who ranked seventh in the conference last year with 74.9 rushing yards per game, is switching sides and will be a defensive back/rover in 2007. Joining Covington in the secondary is Chris Rogers, formerly the Eagles' backup QB, and junior Brandon Jackson, who tied for the SoCon lead with five interceptions in 2006.

Chattanooga has enjoyed just two winning seasons in the last 15 years. For the Mocs to break out of the funk, they must become more efficient at scoring. Chattanooga managed just 18.5 points a game last year, second to last in the Southern. The Mocs didn't help the cause on the other side of the ball much either, ranking last in pass defense and second to last in total and rush defense.

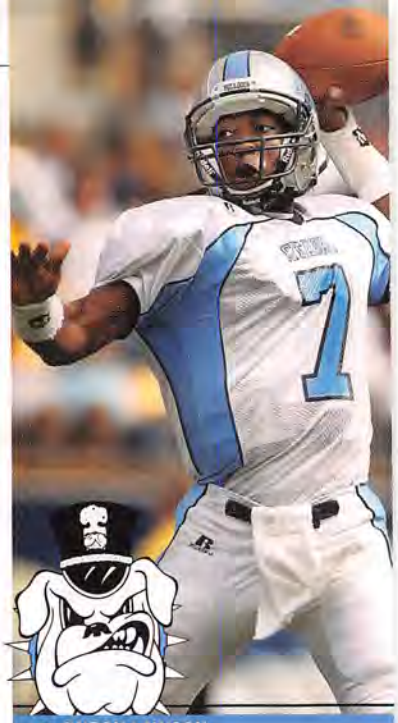
Eldra Buckley, who finished second in the conference with 109.5 rushing yards a game, is gone, leaving a big hole to fill in the backfield. Sophomore Erroll Wynn becomes the starter, with junior-college transfer Donald Askew in the mix as well. Senior QB Antonio Miller is back and needs a better performance than last year, when he had more interceptions (5) than touchdowns (4). If Miller falters again, Kent State transfer Tony Pastore could get the call.

Linebacker Chris Johnson led the team last year with 74 tackles, and anchors a unit that also has most of its defensive front and secondary returning. However, the Mocs were hurt with the loss of All-SoCon defensive back Quintez Smith (4 INTs), who was dismissed from the team after last season.

Right when **Elon** seemed to be making a move toward better days, the Phoenix were delivered a crushing blow. Coming off a 5-6 record (the school's best since 2000), it was announced in March that quarterback Wes Pope, who led the SoCon and set a school record with 2,572 passing yards last year, would be suspended for the fall semester due to violating the university's academic honor code. Signal-calling duties will now likely fall to redshirt freshman Donny Kirby, with true freshman Scott Riddle in the mix as well.

Whoever is throwing the ball will have a talented receiver in sophomore Terrell Hudgins, a first-team All-SoCon performer who led the conference in receiving touchdowns (8) and yards per game (102.7). Hudgins was the only wideout in the Southern to average more than 100 yards a contest. Next up on that list was teammate Michael Mayers (78.7), who also returns. Senior T.J. Clegg gets a chance to breathe life into what was an almost nonexistent running game for the Phoenix last season.

Elon suffered another huge loss with the graduation of All-America linebacker Chad Nkang, who led the conference in tackles (127) last season. However, eight other starters are back, including junior linebacker Corey Weaver (93, fifth in the SoCon) and senior cornerback Chris Bland, whose four interceptions last season ranked second in the Southern.



▸▸ **DURAN LAWSON**
QB, The Citadel

The Phoenix also have the best special teams in the conference, as kicker Andrew Wilcox and punter Brandon Lane both were first-team All-Southern picks in 2006.

Western Carolina would probably like to forget last year ever happened. After winning their first two games, the Catamounts went on to lose the final nine, and finished last in the conference for both scoring offense (14.5 points per game) and points allowed (28.7). WCU also was the lone member not to place a player on either the All-SoCon first or second team.

Senior Todd Spitzer, who started two games at quarterback last year, now takes over full-time. The offense will miss the services of running back Darius Fudge, who was fourth in the league last year with 1,001 rushing yards. Senior Mike Malone or sophomore Willie Harper will get the starting nod in 2007. Seniors Eddie Cohen and Michael Hines are experienced receivers who both finished in the league's top 10 for yards per game last season.

On defense, the Catamounts will have to hope last year's inexperienced unit will get better with a season under its belt. Leading the returnees are linebackers Kadeem Morgan (68 tackles) and Mordy Ornguze (61).

JASON BRIDGE / US PRESSWIRE

GAME TO WATCH

11/03/07:
McNeese State @ Stephen F. Austin

While the Oct. 13 matchup of Sam Houston State at McNeese is important, the key to the Southland race for the league favorite is this contest.

Top Players

OFFENSE	Nathan Brown, *QB, Central Arkansas*
DEFENSE	Bryan Smith, *DE, McNeese State*
NEWCOMER	Rhett Bomar, *QB, Sam Houston State*

Predictions

1. McNeese State
2. Sam Houston State
3. Central Arkansas
4. Stephen F. Austin
5. Northwestern State
6. Nicholls State
7. Texas State
8. Southeastern Louisiana

SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE

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I-AA

Cowboys remain team to beat as Southland looks to regain prominence

By **BILL SMITH,** *Street & Smith's* correspondent

As one of the old-line power conferences of Division I-AA, the Southland Conference always had quality at the top and depth in the ranks. But these are the days of the newly-named Football Championship Subdivision, and the SLC was a shadow of the legend last year with a near-dormant McNeese State stumbling into the playoffs as the lone representative of the league.

Until the depth returns, there are a couple of things you can count on from the Southland, starting with unpredictability in the ranks. A lack of depth is often a problem for programs in this division, as one or two key injuries can render teams unable to respond. This fall's favorites are just one mistake or surgery away from the basement. Witness last year, as Nicholls State lost its top tailback and Sam Houston State was unable to use its best quarterback.

The other constant is change. For years, the SLC has been a transition league for teams in the Southwest trying to reach the brass ring of big-time football. This season, the league officially welcomes a Division II team (Central Arkansas) moving up and also has a longtime member (Texas State) pining for the greener stadium grass of Division I-A football.

The addition of the Bears returns the Southland to the state of Arkansas, once a key market for the league. Central Arkansas' presence should invigorate the football race, not unlike how the addition of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi shook up basketball last year.

By **McNeese State** standards, a first-round loss in the I-AA playoffs is poor, but a huge comeback for the program that was once the Southland standard. Coach Matt Viator stepped into a situation made for disaster after the sudden departure of the Cowboys' previous head coach in early October. The former offensive coordinator led MSU to five victories in the last six contests en route to the league title. Considering his team returns a near-sweep of the Southland's top players, imagine what he can do with a year's preparation.

Wideout Steven Whitehead (609 yards, 3 TDs), the 2006 Southland Player of the Year, heads into the fall riding a 17-game streak with at least one reception and more than 3,000 career all-purpose yards. Sophomore quarterback Derrick Fourroux (1,490 passing yards, 10 TDs) moved the ball to Whitehead and others, plus is able to keep defenses off balance with a running ability (377 yards) that helped make him the league's freshman of the year.

Senior defensive end Bryan Smith ranked among the I-AA's top 10 for sacks and tackles for loss last season, earning SLC Defensive Player of the Year.

The player ready to shake up the Cowboy coronation is Rhett Bomar at **Sam Houston State**. The former Oklahoma quarterback spent his second spring in Huntsville, Texas, and emerged from drills ready to take control of the SHSU offense. Bomar's speed and arm will dominate the SLC if he can get some consistent play from the Bearkats' group of receivers. All-SLC tight end Blake Martin (481 yards, 2 TDs) is the most experienced returnee, but two other Big 12 transfers figure to be the key targets: former Texas Tech receiver Catron Houston and Trey Payne from Baylor.

The team that spices up the 2007 race was the best squad in the Southland last year. **Central Arkansas** wasn't a competing member in 2006, but climbed to 24th in the final I-AA poll. Unfortunately for Coach Clint Conque, he's making his first official SLC campaign without 14 starters, including eight on defense. Weak in the secondary and on the ends, Conque will look to newcomers like junior-college transfer Quadderick Sanders at defensive end to keep things stable while a very young Bear team matures.

As expected for a team adding scholarships by the move up in division, almost three-fourths of the UCA roster is made up of sophomores and freshmen. One of the few upperclassmen is junior quarterback Nathan Brown.

In most seasons, **Stephen F. Austin's** Danny Southall could feel confident of being the top quarterback in the Southland. A first-team selection last year who led the SLC with 170.6 passing yards per game as a junior, Southall has top target Dominique Edison back. Edison is the top returning Southland receiver on average (18.1 per catch).

Thanks to last year's youthfest, **Northwestern State** Coach Scott Stoker appears to have an experience edge in the Southland race. The only problem is, many of the 17 starters returning from 2006 won't be the 2007 guys, as the Demons will get a boost through redshirts and transfers. How soon Division I-A transfers like defensive end Leron King from Ole Miss mesh into the current Demon roster will determine how fast the turnaround will be in Natchitoches, La.

Nicholls State can be forgiven for living in the past because the return of Joe Tobias is one of the keys to the future. The newcomer of the year when the Colonels won the league title in 2005, the 5-11, 220-pound running back sat out last season. He'll join last season's top SLC newcomer, safety Kareem Moore, to provide leaders on each side of the ball. With Tobias available, ground-pounding Nicholls has a solid backfield that includes sophomore quarterback Vince Montgomery, who ranked eighth in the league in rushing last year, and top returning running back Michael McLendon.

Texas State heads into the 2007 season with dreams of moving up to Division I-A once again. Coach Brad Wright reinvigorated the San Marcos fan base, but better finishes than the middle of the SLC pack are needed to make the jump reality. While a university committee debates the move, Wright works to find a way to shore up one of the league's worst defenses. The Bobcats' outstanding offense is led by sophomore Bradley George (1,676 yards, 11 TDs), but the defense gave up as many big plays as the offense made last season. For now, new wrinkles to enhance open-field opportunities on offense might tip the balance toward a winning season from last year's 5-6 mark.

For a team that struggled on offense last season, the fact **Southeastern Louisiana** had half of its touchdowns scored in the spring game off a pair of 70-plus-yard interception returns is not a good sign. Coach Mike Lucas heads into the fall still looking for a complement to the running game of second-team All-SLC running back Jay Lucas and senior Mario Gilbert.

Predictions

EAST	WEST
1 Jackson State	1 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
2 Alcorn State	2 Prairie View A&M
3 Alabama A&M	3 Southern
4 Mississippi Valley State	4 Grambling State
5 Alabama State	5 Texas Southern

Top Players

OFFENSE	Chris Wallace, *QB, Arkansas-Pine Bluff*
DEFENSE	Jarmaul George, *DB, Southern*
NEWCOMER	Donald Babers, *RB/WR, Prairie View A&M*

GAME TO WATCH

11/17/07:
Alcorn State @ Jackson State

This traditional season-ending battle of Mississippi rivals, dubbed the Capital City Classic, could be a fitting way to see who wins the East.

SWAC

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I-AA

Legendary Robinson's death will shadow season

By **LUT WILLIAMS**, *Black College Sports Page*

The 2006 campaign could go down as the most competitive in the storied history of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, and 2007 may produce more of the same.

Last season, eventual conference champion Alabama A&M emerged from a logjam atop the Eastern Division, taking the title over four teams that all finished just one game behind.

In the West, Arkansas-Pine Bluff finished the regular season on a seven-game win streak that enabled it to wrest the title from Grambling State and Southern, who had represented the division in the conference title game every year since its reinstatement in 1999. Only four teams—Grambling, Southern, Alabama State and Alabama A&M—have won conference titles since 1999.

Grambling, one year away from an 11-1 2005 conference championship and a four-time champion since '99, and Alabama State, which won the 2004 championship and has made three title-game appearances, have new coaches. With resurgent Jackson State and Alcorn State in the East, and emerging programs at Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern in the West, parity has perhaps reached the conference as never before.

The biggest loss for the conference and all of college football was the death in April of legendary Grambling Coach Eddie Robinson, who established an unsurpassed on- and off-field legacy of dignity, class and sportsmanship while winning a record 408 games during his career at the school (1941-97).

EAST DIVISION

Under new Coach Rick Comegy and with a boatload of transfers, **Jackson State** (6-5, 5-4 SWAC) emerged from a three-year slump, winning five of its first six games before dropping four of its last five. With key contributors on both sides of the ball returning, and even more transfers coming in, the Tigers will look to finish the job this year.

Quarterback Jimmy Oliver, the team's passing (1,906 yards, 14 TDs) and rushing (546 yards, 5 TDs) leader, returns to lead the offense while Erik Haw (371 yards, 9 TDs) is at the head of a deep stable of running backs.

NFL prospect Corey Clark (6-3, 320) is the linchpin of a formidable defensive line.

With a 2006 roster littered with underclassmen, **Alcorn State** (6-5, 5-4) still managed a winning record and could be pegged as the up-and-coming power in the East.

Wide receiver Nate Hughes, who is also a lethal punt returner, will be the offensive leader. Running back Vernardus Cooper should be joined by Michael Shepherd to give the Braves a potent ground attack. Tony Hobson and Chris Walker shared time at QB last year and should battle again for the starting spot.

Nine defensive starters return and will be led by an outstanding quartet of linebackers—Lee Robinson, Antonio Cooper, Idly Etienne and Lester Mosley.

Its fourth appearance in the championship game was the charm for **Alabama A&M** (9-3, 6-3), but the Bulldogs got there behind six all-conference seniors who have since departed. The only returning skill position starter on offense is QB Kelcy Luke, whose backfield will feature sophomore Ulysses Banks.

The always-stingy Bulldog defense returns linebacker Avery Moland and end Chris Traylor.

Mississippi Valley State (6-5, 5-4) defeated both division champs but lost three other conference games by single digits with the season finale costing it the division title.

Sophomore Paul Roberts steps into the QB spot with wide receiver Clarence Cotton and reliable running back Johey Hargrett as his chief weapons. Burly defensive tackle Ronald Green, a first-team All-SWAC selection, and defensive back Pierre Marshall, who led the league in interceptions, are the defensive standouts.

An up-and-down season turned out to be the last for Coach Charles Coe, whose contract issues caused him to leave **Alabama State** (5-6, 5-4). Former Hornet and NFL wide receiver Reggie Barlow moves up from his assistant's position to guide the Hornets on an interim basis.

Running back Jay Peck will be the staple of the offense after rushing for 1,139 yards and eight TDs last season.

WEST DIVISION

West Division champ **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (8-4, 7-2) took a hit on its offensive line, losing four of five starters, but Coach Mo Forte signed 10 linemen in the most recent recruiting class. Quarterback Chris Wallace, the reigning SWAC Offensive Player of the Year, running back Martell Mallett and wideout Jason Jones were first-team All-SWAC last year, and all return.

While scoring may not be a problem, defending against it may be. Forte will look for linebackers Tim Turner and Jared Dunn and defensive backs Steward Franks and Kevin Thornton to shore up play on that side of the ball.

The league's top defense (266.6 yards per game) and best rushing offense (180.6) belonged to **Prairie View A&M** (3-7, 2-7) but that couldn't offset the Panthers' league-worst of 15.6 points and 69.2 passing yards a game.

Fourth-year Coach Henry Frazier is in the final year of his contract and needs to make an impression that will secure his job. Quarterback Chris Gibson will run the offense and hopes to use wide receivers Marc Ison, Anthony Weeden and Joe Townsend to jumpstart the passing game. Running backs Arnell Fontenot and speedster Calvin Harris will run behind an offensive line that returns four starters.

Back-to-back losing seasons is something new for **Southern** (5-6, 4-5) and Pete Richardson, who enters his 13th year as the longest tenured coach in the SWAC. Settling on a starting QB between fifth-year senior J.C. Lewis, C.J. Byrd and Bryant Lee is one of Richardson's first priorities.

All-conference free safety Jarmaul George leads a strong defensive secondary that includes Glenn Bell, Michael Williams and Marcus Wilkerson.

Controversy, eligibility issues and finally dissension tore apart defending champion **Grambling State** (3-8, 3-6) and led to the firing of Melvin Spears after three years. The Tigers pulled off a coup by landing former N.C. Central Coach Rod Broadway, who had led his team to two consecutive conference titles and Division II playoff berths.

Second-team All-SWAC QB Brandon Landers returns, as does first-team wideout Clyde Edwards.

Winning three games last year was hardly good enough for Coach Steve Wilson at **Texas Southern** (3-8, 3-6) but it's an improvement over the one win he had in his first two seasons. Oregon State transfer Lamar Herron should be an impact player at free safety.

Savannah still sings saddest song of I-AA indys

By **JONATHAN WOOG**, *Street & Smith's* Copy Editor

It was only two years ago when Savannah State was the lone torchbearer for the Division I-AA independents. In 2006, three teams—Austin Peay, Central Arkansas and Winston-Salem State—joined the Tigers, but only briefly. The Governors bolted for the Ohio Valley Conference, while the Bears joined the Southland and the Rams became members of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Don't worry, though, Savannah State. There's a new group of schools ready to keep you company.

North Carolina Central and Presbyterian are making the move up from Division II, while Stony Brook is leaving the Northeast Conference. But again, it's a short-lived stop, as all three leave for greener conference pastures in 2008. The Blue Hose and Seawolves will join the Big South, bolstering that league to seven teams. However, Presbyterian doesn't receive full I-AA membership until 2011. As for the Eagles, they become the 11th member of the MEAC.

And Savannah State? Well, since leaving the safe confines of D2 in 2002, the Tigers have gone 5-49, are on their third coach and serving probation until the spring of 2009 after it was found that a former assistant coach provided housing and meals and encouraged players to use anabolic steroids. Even through the turmoil, SSU has shown interest in joining the MEAC, but were denied after applying for membership to the historic conference. Entering the 2007 season, they're still on the outside looking in.

After back-to-back Division II playoff appearances and Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships, **North Carolina Central** will rejoin the MEAC, which it was an original member of in the 1970s.

Gone is Coach Rod Broadway, the new head coach of Grambling State, and in steps Mose Rison, NCCU's offensive coordinator last year, to carry on the winning tradition.

The Eagles will be high-flying on offense with the return of Stadford Brown, who won league honors for top player and top rookie in 2006. The sophomore quarterback not only helped NCCU lead the conference in points per game (30.9, a school record), but he also threw for 2,577 yards and 26 touchdowns. Top rusher Greg Pruitt Jr. graduated, but junior Jeff Toliver (93 carries, 454 yards, 6 TDs) can carry the load. While four of the top five receiving options graduated, junior wideout Wayne Blackwell returns as Brown's main target.

Defensively, the Eagles welcome back senior secondary stars Derrick Ray and Craig Amos. They should make their share of tackles if opponents can get past standout linebackers Eric Ray and Rashard Coleman.

Central will ease into its first year at the I-AA level against a fairly manageable schedule, with two games against future MEAC opponents and six against Division II teams.

There are big changes happening at **Presbyterian**. The Blue Hose leave the familiarity of Division II football and the South Atlantic Conference and enter their first season of I-AA play, doing it under an entirely new coaching staff. First-year Coach Bobby Bentley, who will handle the play-calling and hopes to implement a spread offense, inherits a team that went 7-4 last season and returns 13 starters.

The hope is that Presbyterian's offense catches up to its defense, as the Blue Hose ranked last in the SAC in scoring (15.1 ppg) last year.

Quarterback Grayson Mullins will be the man under center. As a sophomore, he played in 10 games, throwing for 939 yards and six touchdowns. But he must cut down on his interceptions (10). With a line that averages 270 pounds, it will give Mullins plenty of time to find wide receiver Justin Durant (37 receptions, 6 TDs) and open holes for running back S.J. Worrell (551 rushing yards, 3 TDs).

While Presbyterian's offense struggled last year, the defense excelled. And even though the Blue Hose lose two all-conference defensive backs in Chad Burgess and Kevin Molony, they should be stout because of linebacker Antwan Thomas (team-high 79 tackles) and linemen Sherman Burnett and Adam McKinney.

In a rude welcome to I-AA play, the Blue Hose will play eight games on the road, facing last year's Southern Conference runner-up, Furman, in the first game and four of their five future Big South opponents.

There is one thing **Savannah State** can hope for as it heads into the 2007 season: stability. Coach Theo Lemon returns for his second year after leading the Tigers to 2-9 mark, a two-game improvement over their winless 2005 campaign.

The Tigers were young last year, so they return experience. Junior Garrett Williams will be the man at the controls after throwing for 1,264 yards and eight touchdowns last season, but his interceptions (14) must be reduced. Gone is running back Chad Cone, and in place is junior Quinton Beasley, who will share the load with fullback Jamie Beard (15 carries, 112 yards). Garrett Williams will have two quality targets in sophomore Mark Williams and junior Anthony Huntley. Huntley also returned kickoffs last year, bringing one back for a score.

Junior linebackers Trent Newton and Calvin Leonard will be focus of the Tigers' defense, as they led the team in tackles with 114 and 67, respectively. In the secondary, sophomore Antwan Allen played only eight games in 2006 but had a team-leading four sacks.

The Tigers just might get more than two wins this season, as they face three Division II teams and one NAIA opponent. But if they are able to get two key victories over MEAC members Morgan State and Bethune-Cookman, the Tigers may get the acceptance they've been seeking.

After sharing the NEC title in 2005 and finishing second last season, **Stony Brook** makes an unusual geographic move. The New York school will join a conference (Big South) with schools based in Virginia and the Carolinas. Reason: the NEC limits its schools to 30 scholarships.

In the long run, though, the switch benefits the Big South and Stony Brook, as the addition of the Seawolves gives the conference the sixth full-fledged football member it needed to receive an automatic bid to the I-AA playoffs in 2010.

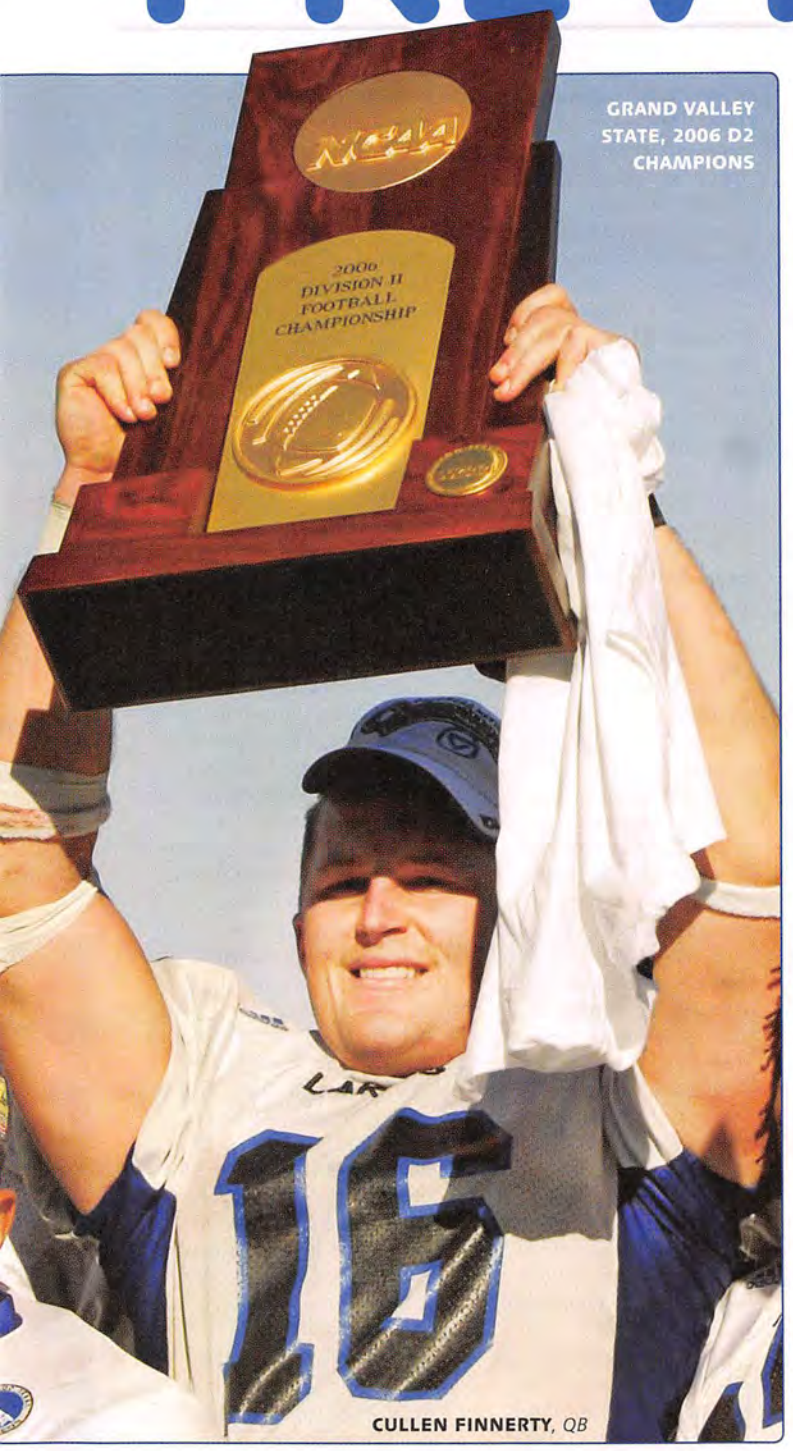
In his first year as head coach, Chuck Priore led the Seawolves to a 5-6 record last year. But for Stony Brook to be competitive, Priore needs to shore up a defense that allowed 278 points last season.

The defensive unit will be built around the 2006 NEC Defensive Rookie of the Year, Cory Giddings, who recorded 39 tackles and two interceptions last season. The top two tacklers returning are linebackers Tyler Santucci (56 tackles) and Milo Otis (53). Otis also led the team in interceptions with four.

The offense returns some firepower with quarterback Josh Dudash and wide receiver Lynell Suggs. Dudash, whose favorite red-zone target was Suggs (seven receiving TDs), completed 179 of 285 passes for 2,231 yards with a 15-4 TD/interception ratio. Suggs (38 receptions) will line up opposite Dwayne Eley (50). At running back, there will be a one-two punch with sophomore Conte Cuttino and junior Steve Austin, who combined for 936 yards and five scores last year.

Unfortunately, the Seawolves won't get a taste of Big South until 2008, as they have no games slated against future league foes.

DIVISION II PREVIEW



GRAND VALLEY STATE, 2006 D2 CHAMPIONS

CULLEN FINNERTY, *QB*

BUTCH DILL / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Offseason exodus of teams to I-AA highlights preseason talk, but the old stand-bys (Grand Valley State, North Alabama) are set to dominate again

By **Gregg Dewalt**
Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily

The landscape is changing in Division II.

Sure, Grand Valley State remains the team to beat. The Lakers are trying to continue a recent run of dominance that includes four championships in five years.

Coach Chuck Martin's team is coming off another thrilling title win, 17-14 over Northwest Missouri State, and with another championship this year the Lakers will match North Alabama (1993-95) for the longest streak of consecutive trophies.

Much of the Division II news heading into this season, however, is away from the playing field as more teams make the move to Division I-AA. Well-known programs such as North Carolina Central and Presbyterian will step up this year. The North Central Conference will disband after the 2007 season as North Dakota and South Dakota transition to I-AA.

"Our conference is the first conference casualty," NCC Commissioner Roger Thomas says. "We're a product of our own success. We've been very successful in Division II football, and the teams that have gone on or [are] going on have been great teams."

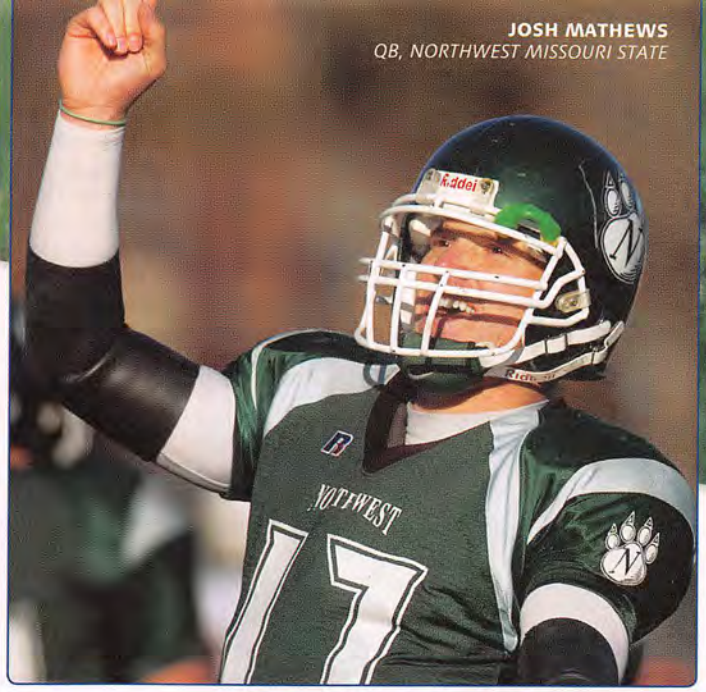
In the past few years, the NCC has watched Northern Colorado, North Dakota State and South Dakota State leave for I-AA.

The defection of North Dakota and South Dakota after this year would leave the NCC with seven teams. The NCC has won eight Division II titles and has four runner-up trophies in 34 years.

"It's bittersweet," Thomas says. "We've been a league since 1921. I'm not knocking Division I-AA; I just hate that this has happened on my watch. We've spent the last year trying to find teams to come into the NCC."

With the announcements of the Fighting Sioux and Coyotes leaving, the remaining NCC teams were trying to find new homes. Nebraska-Omaha was attempting to join the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association, while Augustana, Minnesota-Duluth, Minnesota State-Mankato and St. Cloud State hoped to hook up with the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

DANNY WOODHEAD
RB, CHADRON STATE



JOSH MATHEWS
QB, NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE

"The upside is that it gives other teams a chance to get into the playoffs and make it to Florence [Ala.] for the championship game," Thomas says.

On the field, everybody continues to chase **Grand Valley State** (15-0 overall in 2006).

But it will be a different-looking Lakers team that begins defense of its title. And perhaps that gives the rest of Division II hope. Gone are offensive stalwarts like quarterback Cullen Finnerty, running back Astin Martin and wide receiver Eric Fowler. But the offensive line returns intact, while nine starters are back on defense.

Sophomore Brad Iciek is the likely replacement for the record-setting Finnerty as the Lakers try to extend the nation's longest winning streak of 28 games.

If Grand Valley State is No. 1 in the nation heading into the 2007 season, then Coach Mel Tjeerdsma and **Northwest Missouri State** (14-1) should be labeled No. 1A. The Bearcats fell three points short of a championship in 2006 after losing to the Lakers by four points the year before.

Unlike Grand Valley State, though, Northwest Missouri State returns the bulk of its skill players. Quarterback Josh Mathews (3,336 passing yards, 23 TDs) leads a potent attack that didn't score less than 24 points in a game until the championship last year. Xavier Omon also returns for his senior season after rushing for 1,518 yards and 22 touchdowns.

This year, **North Dakota** (11-2) will try to exit Division II on a winning note as it moves up to I-AA in 2008. Key returning players for the Fighting Sioux include running back Ryan Chappell, who rushed for 1,253 yards and 15 TDs while making seven starts last season, and wide receiver Weston Dressler, who torched defenses for 90 catches, 1,215 yards and 16 scores.

North Alabama (11-1) was cruising along until Delta State whipped the Lions 27-10 on their home field in the NCAA quarterfinals. With some of the other top teams in the Gulf South Conference undergoing makeovers—either from a personnel or coaching standpoint—the Lions are the team to beat in 2007.

North Alabama has 15 starters returning, but will have to remake the receiving corps and replace several key defensive players. Quarterback A.J. Milwee leads the offense after throwing 16 TD passes and rushing for eight more in 2006.

Nebraska-Omaha (8-3) is coming off its third straight North Central Conference title. The Mavericks return three first-team All-NCC performers, including All-America offensive tackle Ben Hochstein, the league's best offensive lineman. Quarterback Zach Miller was a Harlon Hill Trophy regional finalist while rushing for 1,098 yards and scoring a school-record 19 touchdowns.

Chadron State was one of the surprise teams last season, going from 4-6 in 2005 to 12-1 in 2006 behind the running of Harlon Hill Trophy winner Danny Woodhead, who led all of college football with more than 2,700 rushing yards. He also topped Division II in scoring and all-purpose yards, and needs 14 scores to reach the 100-TD plateau.

Shepherd (11-1) just missed its first trip to the NCAA semifinals and brings a 21-game regular-season winning streak into 2007. Seven starters return on offense, including running back Dervon Wallace (1,300 yards, 17 TDs) and offensive lineman Ryan Pope. Michael Spiegelberg (9 sacks) leads a unit that was tops nationally in scoring defense.

Ron Roberts, who was promoted from within the program, takes over for Rick Rhoades as coach at **Delta State** (12-3), and his first priority is to retool an offense that lost QB Scott Eyster (3,926 yards,

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Grand Valley State
2. Northwest Missouri State
3. North Dakota
4. North Alabama
5. Nebraska-Omaha
6. Chadron State
7. Shepherd
8. Delta State
9. West Texas A&M
10. Bloomsburg
11. South Dakota
12. Elizabeth City State
13. Newberry
14. Northwood
15. Midwestern State
16. West Chester
17. Bryant
18. Missouri Western State
19. Abilene Christian
20. Pittsburg State
21. Wayne State
22. Valdosta State
23. Winona State
24. California (Pa.)
25. Edinboro

(L TO R): NATI HARNIK / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; JESSICA STEWART / ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Street & Smith's D2 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

- QB Zach Miller *(6-4, 216, Sr.) Nebraska-Omaha*
- RB Joique Bell *(6-0, 213, r-So.) Wayne St. (Mich.)*
- RB Danny Woodhead *(5-9, 200, Sr.) Chadron St.*
- RB Xavier Omon *(6-0, 215, Sr.) Northwest Missouri*
- OL Brandon Barnes *(6-2, 315, Sr.) Grand Valley St.*
- OL Christian Morton *(6-5, 286, Sr.) South Dakota*
- OL Ben Hochstein *(6-4, 286, Sr.) Nebraska-Omaha*
- OL Heath Benedict *(6-6, 320, r-Sr.) Newberry*
- OL Tim McCutcheon *(6-4, 305, Sr.) California (Pa.)*
- WR Weston Dressler *(5-8, 164, Sr.) North Dakota*
- WR Ashton Gronewold *(5-10, 190, Sr.) Missouri-Rolla*
- WR Brahin Bilal *(5-11, 185, Sr.) Bloomsburg*
- RS Brandon Toles *(5-10, 180, Sr.) Southern Conn.*
- PK David Chudzinski *(6-0, 188, Sr.) Wayne St. (Mich.)*

DEFENSE

- DL Travis Carpenter *(6-1, 225, Sr.) Abilene Christian*
- DL Ron Ellington *(6-4, 225, Sr.) Catawba*
- DL Andre Bernardi *(6-3, 245, Jr.) North Greenville*
- DL Jake Visser *(6-2, 265, Jr.) Ferris St.*
- LB Michael Eubanks *(6-2, 215, Sr.) Delta St.*
- LB Jared Brock *(6-1, 210, Jr.) West Texas A&M*
- LB Anthony Adams *(6-2, 234, Sr.) Grand Valley St.*
- LB Lateef Ferguson *(6-1, 220, Sr.) West Chester*
- DB Brandon Carr *(6-1, 206, Sr.) Grand Valley St.*
- DB Josh Jones *(5-10, 165, Jr.) Minnesota-Moorhead*
- DB Kendall Ricketts *(5-10, 190, Sr.) Central Missouri*
- DB Quincy Skinner *(5-10, 170, Sr.) Arkansas Tech*
- P Wayne Durham *(6-4, 180, Jr.) Adams St.*

ZACH MILLER
QB, NEBRASKA-OMAHA

36 TD passes) and wide receiver Robert Davis (88 catches, 1,228 yards) to graduation. The defense will be solid with four key players returning in Michael Eubanks, Lardester Hicks-Green, Jamarcus Wiggins and Monterio James.

West Texas A&M (11-2) has offensive issues with the loss of running back Maurice White and Dalton Bell, who was 20-4 as the starting QB, but Jared Brock is one of the nation's best linebackers.

Bloomsburg (12-2) made it all the way to the NCAA semifinals despite an injury-plagued season for running back Jamar Brittingham, who still managed to crank out 1,003 rushing yards. If Brittingham can stay healthy, the Huskies could find themselves in a similar position come playoff time.

South Dakota (9-4) begins its final Division II season as one of the NCC favorites with nine returning offensive starters. Replacing running back Stefan Logan, however, is Coach Ed Meierkort's biggest priority.

Elizabeth City State (9-3) recorded four shutouts in posting the best record in school history last year. Curtis Rich, who threw 21 TD passes in 10 starts, and running back Brandon Fields (981 yards rushing) will lead what should be a strong offense.

Newberry (11-2) will have a tougher time winning the South Atlantic Conference after losing QB Josh Stepp, who set the school's single-season TD mark, and wideout Tymere Zimmerman. The Indians should be strong defensively, however, with the return of linebacker Will Newell, the conference's leading tackler.

Northwood (8-3) lost a heartbreaker, 31-28 in overtime, to South Dakota in the opening round of the NCAAs last season. Coach Pat Riepma must replace QB Kyle Kolbe, who was the Timberwolves' second-leading rusher, and Charleston Hughes, who led all of Division II in solo tackles. The good news is that running back Torris Childs returns after rushing for 973 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2006.

Midwestern State (10-3) advanced to the second round of the playoffs, and should be poised to make another postseason run as QB Daniel Polk returns after both passing and rushing for more than 1,000 yards in 2006. He'll be operating behind standout center Tony Burson, who anchors the line.

West Chester (9-4) came within a point of reaching the NCAA quarterfinals last season and, with three key players returning in QB Bill Zwann (22 TD passes), wideout Michael Washington (55 catches, 16 TDs) and linebacker Lateef Ferguson (114 tackles), the Golden Rams should make a fourth straight postseason appearance.

Bryant (8-3) is coming off its first playoff appearance, but Coach Marty Fine must replace running back Lorenzo Perry, who accumulated 20 of the Bulldogs' 26 rushing touchdowns, and Justin Kix, the school's all-time leading receiver.

Missouri Western State (9-3) will try to overcome the loss of 10 all-conference selections after making its first D2 playoff appearance. Offensive lineman Roger Allen is a good building block, but the Griffons must replace the QB tandem of Matt Landess and Michael Burton, who combined for 17 TD passes last season.

Quarterback Billy Malone returns for his junior year after leading **Abilene Christian** (8-3) to the NCAAs. Malone (3,136 passing yards, 27 TD passes) was the key for a Wildcats offense that averaged 35.5 points and 434.2 yards per game last season.

The biggest question at **Pittsburg State** (10-2) is how to replace Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Germaine Race, who finished his career as Division II's all-time-leading rusher (6,985 yards) and college football's all-time scoring leader (658 points).

Wayne State (6-5) is on the rise after making a three-game improvement in the win column under Paul Winters, the 2006 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. The Warriors have one of the nation's rising stars in Joique Bell, who set a Division II freshman rushing record with 2,065 yards and a school-record 23 touchdowns. Daryl Graham, a former All-GLIAC running back at Michigan Tech, gives the Warriors perhaps the best backfield tandem in the division.

David Dean, who was promoted from within the program, takes over for Chris Hatcher at **Valdosta State** (8-2), which missed the playoffs last season. Willie Copeland returns to direct the offense, and the Blazers landed a

NATI HARNIK / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

GAMES TO WATCH

Sept. 2:
Tuskegee *at* Miles

Sept. 29:
Bloomsburg *at* West Chester

Oct. 6:
Northwest Missouri State *at* Pittsburg State

Oct. 18:
Delta State *at* North Alabama

Oct. 20:
Grand Valley State *at* Northwood

variety of Division I-A and I-AA transfers to bolster the roster.

Quarterback Drew Aber is expected to be healthy and ready for the 2007 season at **Winona State** (9-3) after tearing his ACL midway through last year.

California (Pa.) won six of its final seven games to finish 8-3 last season, just missing its first playoff bid. Brandon Lombardy, who led the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference in rushing with 1,595 yards and also scored 19 touchdowns, will do most of his running behind returning All-America lineman Tim McCutcheon.

Edinboro (6-5) looks to bounce back from a mediocre season that saw Trevor Harris emerge as one of the best PSAC quarterbacks. Harris threw for 2,547 yards and 20 TDs, and this year tight end Kyle Witucki should be one of his favorite targets.

BEST OF THE REST

In the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, **Ferris State** (8-3) returns a solid nucleus on defense, led by tackle Jake Visser (86 tackles).

Saginaw Valley (6-4) missed the playoffs in 2006, but should feature one of the conference's top offenses this year. Quarterback Chris Dougherty threw only three interceptions in 176 attempts last season, while his top receiver, Ric Cottengim, had 52 catches for 765 yards and 13 scores. Both return.

To move into the upper echelon of the GLIAC, **Northern Michigan** (3-7) will need another big year from QB Buddy Rivera, who threw for 2,399 yards and 20 touchdowns last year.

Michigan Tech (6-4) rebounded from a 0-4 start in 2006 to win six in a row, but the Huskies lose Lee Marana, the conference's all-time leading rusher (4,784 yards).

Indianapolis (6-5) will rely on Craig Jenkins, who set a school record with 1,136 rushing yards in 2006.

Hillsdale (5-6) returns a pair of all-conference performers in wide receiver Nick Gurica, who led the team with 57 catches for 823 yards, and defensive back Jared Kell, who had five interceptions and four fumble recoveries.

Ashland (4-6) looks to rebound from a down year, and Coach Lee Owens will have to decide on a quarterback after John Ferguson and Bill Cundiff split playing time last season.

In the Northeast-10 Conference, **Southern Connecticut** (7-4) will rely on Brandon Toles, who set a school record with 1,904 rushing yards and 16 TDs last year, to carry much of the offensive load.

Merrimack (8-4) rebounded from a 1-3 start to win seven straight and qualify for postseason play. Quarterback Colin Temple threw 16 TD passes, but was also intercepted 19 times.

Bentley (6-5) will try to return to the playoffs after a two-year absence behind the Northeast-10's top offensive lineman, Mackenzy Bernadeau, and running back J.J. Sullivan, who was injured for much of 2006 and managed only 407 yards rushing.

In the Gulf South Conference, QBs Cole Barthel and Justin Ray return after combining for 20 TD passes and 1,912 yards while splitting time at **Arkansas Tech** (7-3) last year.

David Knighton returns for **Harding** (6-4) after tying a school record with 22 touchdown passes. All-conference defensive back Sevohn Greer, who had 11 tackles for loss last season, also returns.

Henderson State (8-3) and **West Alabama** (6-5) will try to continue to build on their most successful seasons in recent years.

Bemidji State (9-3) won its first outright Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference title last year by going unbeaten in league play, but lost to Pittsburg State in the Mineral Water Bowl. Zach Stafford returns to lead the nation's top defense against the run, while Justin Guy and John Keaveny anchor a strong offensive line.

In the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, Coach Lou Tepper had a good first year at **Indiana (Pa.)**, going 8-2, and the Crimson Hawks will rely on 10 returning defensive starters to carry much of the load while the former head man at Illinois replaces kicker Nick Wallace (transferred to Maryland), three offensive linemen, a quarterback and a running back.

Shippensburg (5-6) and **Kutztown** (4-6) look to be on the rise. The Raiders return 21 starters, while the Golden Bears get back the bulk of their skill-position players.

Tuskegee (10-2), **Albany State** (7-4) and **Miles** should be the class of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Miles had to forfeit its 2006 conference title and season for using an ineligible player, allowing Albany State and Tuskegee to share the crown.

Coach Willie Slater continued Tuskegee's winning tradition in his first season, and the Golden Tigers return a solid nucleus of young players.

Fort Lewis (7-4) and **Nebraska-Kearney** (6-4) will try to make inroads into Chadron State's Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference dominance. The Lopers have most of their defense returning from a squad that only allowed 14.5 points per game last year, while the Skyhawks are coming off one their most successful seasons in school history.

Colorado School of Mines looks to rebound from a 4-7 campaign with a strong defense and wide receiver Michael Curl, who had 1,485 all-purpose yards last year.

For **Washburn** (7-4) to contend in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the Ichabods must find capable replacements for several key players, including school record-holders Sam Sissom, a wideout, and running back Trent Hearn.

Former QB Garin Higgins takes over at **Emporia State** (3-8) for Dave Wiemers, who resigned as coach after the 2006 season.

In the North Central Conference, 14 starters return at **Minnesota-Duluth** (6-4), including QB Ted Schlafke and Tyler Yelk, the league's top tackler last year.

New Coach Beau Baldwin, a former assistant and quarterback with the Wildcats, has nine returning starters from last year's 6-5 **Central Washington** team.

Minnesota State-Mankato (4-7) should be exciting to watch with senior QB Ben King throwing to Bryan Dalton and Chris Nowlin, two of the NCC's top receivers.

All five of **Western Washington**'s (5-6) wins in 2006 were of the come-from-behind variety, and Coach Robin Ross will try to get the Vikings to take the early lead against teams more often this season.

DIVISION III PREVIEW

Former Alabama mentor Dubose finds D3 coaching life to his liking at Millsaps

By Mike Goens
Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily

It makes no difference whether it's in high school, the National Football League, a Division I-A power conference or Division III. Millsaps College Coach Mike Dubose says the objective remains the same.

"The game we play in Division III is just as important and means just as much to the players and coaches as it does anywhere else or on any other level," he says. "It's just as fun when you're winning and just as frustrating when you don't."

And Dubose should know.

He has been a coach on all of those levels, enjoying a great deal of success and frustration along the way.

In Dubose's 29 years of coaching, he has been a high school head coach and an assistant coach in the NFL with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. But perhaps he gained the most fame as head coach at his alma mater, the University of Alabama, where Dubose succeeded Gene Stallings and led the Crimson Tide program from 1997-2000.

He says the only difference between the leagues is the fan base.

"They just have more people at Alabama," Dubose says, "but I guarantee you winning means a lot to everyone associated with this program."

Dubose won many championships as a player and coach at Alabama, and his first taste in Division III ended with a title, too. His Majors defeated then-No. 14 Trinity (Texas) 34-12 in the regular-season finale to become a surprise winner of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. They also earned an automatic berth to the D3 playoffs, the school's first postseason appearance in 31 years.

Millsaps is perhaps not ready to challenge Division III kingpin Mount Union, but don't tell that to Dubose and his players.

"Absolutely, our ultimate goal is to win the national championship," he says. "Now, it won't be easy, but our guys got a taste of the price you have to pay to become a champion last year. The greater price you pay, the more important it becomes for you. We've got to raise the bar a little more this year."

Dubose's success in his first year with Millsaps may have also raised the bar in the conference, which has been owned by Trinity in recent years. With Birmingham-Southern (Ala.) making the move from Division I-AA this season, the level of competition is expected to increase. Yet the league's fight continues for national respect and the right to be mentioned among the best conferences in the country.

No one carries more respect than **Mount Union**.

The Purple Raiders had another ho-hum season in 2006, going 15-0 and winning the national championship, again.

In case you have lost count, Mount Union has a record nine national championships on its resume, with eight of those coming over the last 11 years. The overall record during that 11-year stretch is an incredible 150-4. Not even Dubose's former Alabama team, with 12 national championships all-time, can compete with that run.

The Raiders will be a solid favorite to win their third consecutive Division III crown this year, with 14 starters—seven on both sides of the ball—returning.

Their two biggest weapons, wide receiver Pierre Garcon and tailback Nate Kmic, are back. Garcon had 67 catches for 1,212 yards and 17 touchdowns last year, while Kmic averaged 157.7 yards a game on the ground.

Greg Micheli split playing time at quarterback in 2006 and will be the full-time starter. He was MVP of the NCAA title game. For the season, Micheli completed 74.2 percent of his passes for 1,156 yards and 11 scores. He rushed for another 445 yards and nine touchdowns.

Two top-notch linemen are center Eric Safran and guard Derek Blanchard.

"Having Pierre and Nate back gives us the opportunity to attack teams both through the air and on the ground," says Mount Union's Larry Kehres, who enters his 22nd season as coach. "We expect our offense to be more consistent, especially with the number of games they have under their belts."

Considering the Raiders averaged 489.3 yards and 43.9 points a game last season, that's a sobering thought for opponents.

PRESEASON TOP 25

1 Mount Union
2 Saint John's
3 St. John Fisher
4 Wisconsin-Whitewater
5 Mary Hardin-Baylor
6 Rowan
7 Wabash
8 Washington & Jefferson
9 Wheaton
10 Whitworth
11 Bethel
12 Occidental
13 Wilkes
14 Springfield
15 Millsaps
16 Central
17 Bridgewater (Va.)
18 Wartburg
19 Hope
20 Wisconsin-La Crosse
21 Linfield
22 Ohio Northern
23 Carnegie Mellon
24 Coast Guard
25 Washington & Lee

The defense is almost overlooked with all those gaudy offensive numbers, but the unit is talented. Nick Parr (7 sacks) and Pat McCullough lead the charge up front. Linebackers Matt Rees and Tony DeRiggi combined for 10.5 sacks and were the team's leading tacklers. Safety Matt Kostelnik had five interceptions a year ago and the secondary as a whole will get another boost with the return of cornerback Cameron Rose, who missed 2006 with an injury.

Another constant in D3 has been **Saint John's**. Year-in and year-out, Coach John Gagliardi has his Johnnies among the division's elite. Gagliardi, entering his 59th year in coaching, has a 443-120-11 overall record. Saint John's has won the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title 29 times and is the winningest team in Division III with a 537-219-24 record in 96 seasons.

Defense will likely be the dominating factor for the Johnnies. Seven starters are back from an impressive unit last season, led by lineman Nick Gunderson, who had 77 tackles, 9.5 sacks and five blocked kicks. Mike Schumacher and Joe Luke are also stout up front. Senior defensive backs John Cloeter and Kevin

Boegel are proven, while sophomore linebackers Ryan Wimmer and Josh Rose both started as freshmen.

The Johnnies, who won the national title in 2003, have plenty of firepower on offense. Quarterback Alex Kofoed, who has won 28 games as a starter and passed for 2,805 yards and 24 touchdowns last season, leads the unit. Kofoed connected with receiver Brian Weber 32 times for 508 yards a year ago. Center Andrew Salvato is a force on the line along with Jason Primus and Jason Brodmerkel.

MOUNT UNION, 2006 D3 CHAMPION

A rising power in Division III is **St. John Fisher**. The Cardinals won eight games total from 1996 to 2000, but have now won at least eight a year since 2003. They have 15 starters back—eight on offense and seven on defense—from a 12-2 squad. They blanked Rowan 31-0 in the NCAA quarterfinals before losing 26-14 to Mount Union in the semifinals.

Quarterback Rob Kramer completed nearly two-thirds of his passes last season, throwing for 2,019 yards and 22 touchdowns in the process. He was intercepted only once.

James Reile will step into a leadership role as the starting tailback. Reile will run behind Brennan Fortune, a 285-pound tackle who has attracted the attention of pro scouts.

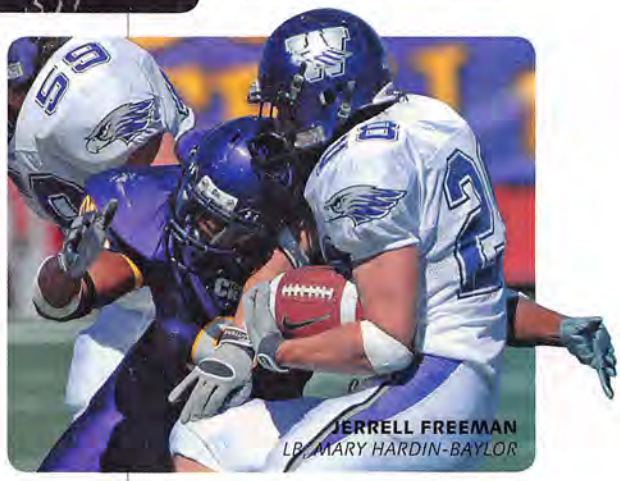
St. John Fisher posted five shutouts a year ago and cornerback Steven Stepnick will lead the defensive unit. Scott Miranto and Matt Driscoll also return to the secondary, and big things are expected from linebacker Josh Gottlieb.

Wisconsin-Whitewater came within a single win of a national championship in 2006 and has all the ingredients to make another run. Even though the Warhawks lost several key stars to graduation, particularly on offense, many younger players were tested during last season's championship run after injuries struck.

The best news is that tailback Justin Beaver returns after missing four games with a broken collarbone. Six linemen, headed by guard Brady Ramseier, are back with starting experience. New Coach Lance Leipold, however, must find a replacement at quarterback quickly and replace some big-play receivers. On defense, linebacker A.J. Raebel and end Ryan Ogrizovich are the ringleaders and the secondary remains intact.

There is a wealth of returning talent at **Mary Hardin-Baylor**. The Crusaders advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals last season. They have a wealth of starters back on offense and six on a defense that led the nation in stopping the run.

Jarvis Thrasher was inserted at tailback in the fourth game last year and rushed for 1,137 yards. Quarterback Josh Welch is a four-year starter and Cole Smith led the Crusaders in receiving. Both tight ends return, as does the two-deep roster at all five offensive-line slots, led by tackle Caleb Woodall. On defense, linebacker Jerrell Freeman is one of the nation's best. He racked up 96 tackles, four interceptions and 16 tackles for loss last season. Linebacker Eric Henri and cornerback Elliot Barcak will also be key contributors.



JERRELL FREEMAN
LB, MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR

A three-loss season represents a good year for many programs, but not at **Rowan**. The Profs advanced to the national semifinals for the third consecutive year in 2006, and could be poised to make another run at the championship this season with 13 starters back.

Ulysses Encarnacion missed last season because of a leg injury he suffered in the 2005 Division III playoffs, but returns healthy. Encarnacion joins Davon Edwards at running back, giving the Profs a powerful one-two punch. Dan Lee is the go-to guy on the line, and Emory Lester is back after leading the team in receiving a year ago. The key on offense will be the play of quarterback Joe Rankin. The defense will be stout, led by end Randy Tosh (7 sacks), strong safety Kelvin Bellamy (73 tackles, 4 sacks, 3 forced fumbles) and linebacker Chris Pinto.

Wabash tied for the North Coast Athletic Conference crown last year and has plenty of experience back with seven starters on offense and nine on defense.

The best of the lot could be linebacker Adrian Pynenberg, who has led the Little Giants in tackles for three consecutive seasons. He was the NCAC Defensive Player of the Year in 2006. Matt Kraft and Andy Deig also return at the other two linebacker spots, while the secondary returns intact.

On offense, Dustin Huff lit up the league last season, completing 215 of 318 passes for 29 touchdowns. Also returning is Mike Russell, who led the team with 60 catches for 1,052 yards and 13 scores.

A winning tradition is part of the program at **Washington & Jefferson**. The Presidents have won 19 of their past 23 league titles and made it to the playoffs last year for the 18th time since 1985. This season they will build around seven returning starters on offense.

Quarterback Bobby Swallow was fourth in Division III for passing efficiency last year, completing nearly 69.4 percent of his throws for 2,022 yards and 20 touchdowns. Matt Houy is quickly developing into one of the top offensive linemen in school history. The question marks are on defense, though, where graduation hit the secondary hard.

Wheaton has become a fixture in the NCAA playoffs and this could be one of the school's best teams. There are eight starters back on offense and seven on defense from a 10-win squad.

Look for the Thunder defense to dominate opponents. End Andy Studebaker can disrupt any offense. He recorded 17.5 sacks last year. Linebackers Steve Pagh and Mike McKinney, who combined for 136 tackles and 17.5 tackles for loss, also return. Cornerback Pete Ittersagen broke up 11 passes and had four interceptions last year. Four offensive linemen and two receivers bring stability to the offense, but the key will be the play of quarterback Zach Ullrich, a transfer from Northern Illinois who is expected to start.

TOP TO BOTTOM: ANTHONY ANTONUCCI / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; DOUG HOLLEMAN

GAMES TO WATCH

Sept. 9:
Mary Hardin-Baylor at Christopher Newport

Sept. 29:
Wisconsin-Whitewater at Wisconsin-La Crosse

Oct. 6:
Mount Union at Ohio Northern

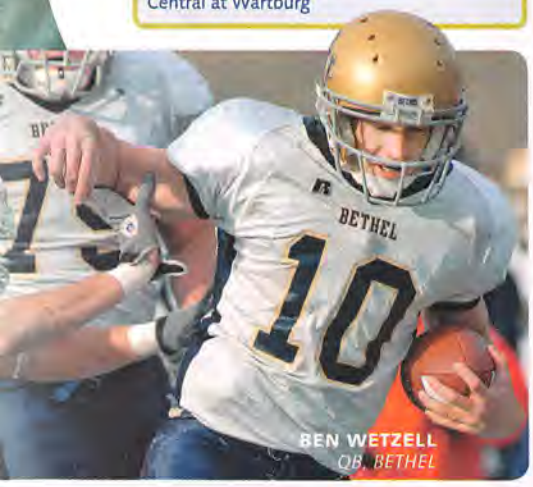
Oct. 13:
Wittenberg at Wabash

Oct. 27:
Bridgewater at Washington & Lee

Nov. 3:
Linfield at Whitworth

Nov. 3:
Wilkes at Delaware Valley

Nov. 10:
Saint John's at Bethel *and* Central at Wartburg



BEN WETZELL
QB, BETHEL

There's a new contender out West. **Whitworth** claimed its first outright Northwest Conference title last year, with a perfect 10-0 regular season. Fifteen starters are returning, including the conference's Defensive Player of the Year, linebacker Casey Clifton. The Pirates' defense allowed only 13.4 points a game behind the strong play of Clifton (102 tackles) and strong safety Jay Tully (7 INTs).

Repeating the offensive output of 2006 will depend on finding a capable starter at quarterback. The winner of that race will have plenty of weapons to work with, as the top receiver (Steve Silva), the top two running backs and three offensive linemen are back. Silva grabbed 58 passes for 759 yards in 2006.

One of the best-kept secrets in D3 in recent years has been **Bethel**, a team that tends to be in the considerable shadow cast by conference rival Saint John's. The Royals shared the conference crown with the Johnnies last year and earned a spot in the national playoffs for the fourth time since 2000.

The priority will be replacing running back Phil Porta, the conference's all-time leading rusher. Quarterback Ben Wetzell returns along with four linemen, including center Tommy Davis and receiver Kyle Lee. Three linebackers, led by Steve Luebke, are back, as well as the entire secondary.

Occidental has become a consistent winner from the West, but the Tigers are still trying to reach the next level. With 14 starters back from a nine-win season, this could be the year. Linebacker Anthony Ostland is the big-play performer on defense after intercepting five passes last year. End Alex Wertheimer had 6.5 sacks.

On offense, running back Matt Andersen averaged two touchdowns a game, but the Tigers must find a replacement at quarterback to lead their spread-option attack. They return three proven receivers, led by Jordan Inabnit.

The regular-season winning streak has reached 17 for **Wilkes**, which is expected to challenge for another conference crown. Linebacker Kyle Follweiler is as good as they get at this level and is coming off a 102-tackle season. Jason Acquaye is a force up front on defense, but some holes must be filled around him. Starters returning on offense are quarterback Al Karaffa (1,966 passing yards, 17 TDs) and linemen Jordan Purdy and Josh George.

Springfield has become a force behind the talents of quarterback Chris Sharpe. He set 12 school and six Division III records last season, but not for his arm. Sharpe, winner of the Melberger Award as the Division III Player of the Year, led the nation by rushing for 161.8 yards a game (1,941 total yards). He also scored 35 times on the ground and passed for four more. The entire offensive backfield returns in fullback Andrew Jackson and halfbacks Tim Brouillard and Derron Walker. Replacing three offensive linemen and the tight end will be crucial. The defense is built around cornerback Joe Harasymiak, who had 10 interceptions in 2006.

This season **Millsaps** will be favored to win consecutive conference titles, as the Majors won seven straight games last season before losing their playoff opener. Two of their biggest offensive weapons will be running back Tyson Roy (698 rushing, 361 receiving yards) and quarterback Juan Joseph, the SCAC's Offensive Player of the Year after accounting for 253.0 total yards a game. Joseph set school records in passing yards (2,495), completions (224) and touchdown passes (21). Defensively, the Majors have big-play performers in linebackers Shawn Gillenwater and Ronnie Wheat and cornerback Marcus Harris.

In Iowa, **Central** has been a consistent winner for decades, with 28 conference titles. The Dutch, during a rebuilding season, sneaked up on some opponents last year, but that won't happen in 2007 as plenty of experience returns on both sides of the ball. Tim Connell is a proven winner at quarterback, while Vance Schuring rushed for 1,199 yards and scored 12 times a year ago. The key will be replacing three starting offensive linemen. The defense will rally around linebacker Andrew Lehn and defensive backs Dustyn Baethke and Brett Doud.

Bridgewater had its streak of five straight Old Dominion Athletic Conference titles snapped last year, but the Eagles appear poised to return to dominance. Quarterback Jeff Highfill completed 59.9 percent of his passes for 14 touchdowns, and can also hurt opponents with the run. Brandon Copeland is his top target (41 catches, 672 yards). Keaton Culver heads an offensive line that has four starters back, and running back Phillip Carter figures to benefit the most. Cornerback Earl Chaptman, safety Desmond Jalloh and tackle Michael Jackson pace the defense.

Having two quarterbacks returning with playing experience is good news for **Wartburg**. Dan Bauder and Nick Yordi proved they could do the job during an eight-win 2006 season. Josh Van Rees takes over at running back, and the receiving corps is talented, led by Kyle Duchman, who has already passed the 100-catch and 1,000-yard marks. Ben Hogan leads a strong line. Defensively, lineman Eric Bruhn leads a unit that also returns Nick Weber, the best player in the secondary. Ryan Gerardy and Kyle Goodchild are aggressive linebackers.

Hope will be looking to repeat as champions of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and will be led by an offense that put up big numbers last year. The Flying Dutchmen will turn to tailback David Booko, who has rushed for more than 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons and scored 17 touchdowns last year. Receivers Kevin VandenBosch and Doug VanEerden combined for 80 catches and 1,272 yards in 2006. On defense, end Matt Rugenstein is top-notch. He was named the conference's Defensive MVP last season after producing 11.5 sacks and 20.5 tackles for loss.

Don't be surprised if **Wisconsin-La Crosse** doesn't regroup to challenge for another national crown. The Eagles, entering their 95th football season, have two Division III titles and 33 conference crowns, the most in WIAC history. The defense will carry the load while a new quarterback settles in this season. All three linebackers, including Adam Neitzel, return, along with secondary standouts Jacob Buswell and Nick Ihde. The defensive front needs rebuilding, though. The key returnees on offense are receivers Ted Everson and Jason Wagner, tailback Dan Hall and linemen Randy Gyllin and Jason Olejniczak.

Linfield knows something about winning and should be a beast out West. The offense will be lethal, with quarterback Trevor Scharer back after passing for 2,060 yards and 20 touchdowns last year.

KIMM ANDERSON / ST. CLOUD TIMES / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Wide receivers Tyler Kaluza and Josh Vierra return after combining for 72 catches and 1,164 yards. The big question will be the defensive front seven, but Keone Tawata, Brian Mehl and Bubba Lemon are solid in the secondary.

Ohio Northern struggled to a 6-4 record during an injury-filled year. The Polar Bears, however, return a plethora of starting experience. Running back R.J. Meadows missed four games in 2006, but will be a constant threat this year. On defense, linebacker Lenny Trusnik can be dominating.

Eleven victories in 2006 was a school best at **Carnegie Mellon**, and the Tartans are hungry for a repeat. Jameson O'Donnell is one of four starting linemen back who paved the way for two 1,000-yard rushers last season. Both of those runners, Travis Sivek (1,326) and Robert Gimson (1,059), return. Sivek has rushed for a school-record 3,067 yards entering his senior season. Defensive back Jon Scholl and linebacker Trent Sisson lead the defense.

At **Coast Guard**, all eyes will be on quarterback Christian George. Despite missing the last four games, George was the New England Football Conference Bogan Division Offensive Player of the Year. He passed for just under 1,000 yards and rushed for 615. Running back Lance Lynch and three all-conference linemen also return. Safety Steve Arguelles and linemen John McDonald and Josh Kirby lead the defense. Punter Jesse Harms is also a strong special-teams weapon.

Washington & Lee won its first outright conference championship since 1981, and many key components return for the Generals. Quarterback R.J. Varner was the ODAC's Rookie of the Year after stepping into the spotlight during the fourth game of last season. He will again lead the attack this year, throwing to deep-threat wide receiver Jack Martin. Running back Stuart Sitterson can hurt opponents as a runner, receiver and returner. On defense, Mark Snoddy returns after a nine-interception season and Bryant Fulk can provide numerous big plays as well.

BEST OF THE REST

Replacing a quarterback is the main priority at **North Central** as it looks for a third straight playoff berth. Players to watch include Dominic Sulo (1,065 rushing and 343 receiving yards), offensive lineman Don Kasper and linebacker Wes Kostellic.

Hardin-Simmons will be hard to stop if it finds a solid quarterback. Receivers Matt Fields and Mychal Carrillo combined for 98 catches last year, while Quinton Jones is a solid runner. Only three starters are back on defense, though.

Ursinus has eight of its All-Centennial Conference selections back from an eight-win season, including defensive back DeVohn Butler and linebacker Brian Hrynczyszyn.

Ursinus will battle always-strong **Dickinson** for the conference crown. The Red Devils return first-team All-Centennial performers in linebacker Eric Dube, defensive end Eric Hertrich and return specialist Chris McInerney. Replacing a quarterback and four offensive linemen will be crucial.

A sleeping giant could be **Kean**, which will challenge Rowan in the New Jersey Athletic Conference. Quarterback A.J. Roque is special and has returning receivers Durell Dukes and Brian Williams as his main targets.

Curry has won four straight NEFC championships and returns its two biggest weapons in quarterback Ryan Van De Giesen (1,524 yards, 21 TDs) and running back Steve DiFabio (862 yards).

Since 1955, **Wittenberg** has had 49 winning seasons, and 2007 looks no different than 48 with the return of quarterback Aaron Huffman and defensive lineman Anthony Davis.

Fifteen starters are back at **Christopher Newport** as the school enters its seventh year of play. The Captains, who earned playoff spots in five of their first six seasons, face a tough early schedule.

Cal Lutheran could be a solid contender to knock off SCIAC rival Occidental. Quarterback Danny Jones, placekicker Connor Pearce, running back Jose Rojas and defensive lineman Jason Jenkins are big-time performers.

A fourth-straight playoff berth is in **Hobart's** sights, as 12 starters return. A defense led by tackle Ryan Aruck, cornerback James Alexander and linebacker Jeff Sanders could be very good.

Allegheny will be tough if a quarterback and running back are found.

Often overlooked is **Ithaca**, but defensive lineman Phil Byers and quarterback Dan Juvan are capable of leading the team a long way.

Cortland lost 13 starters, but still have quarterback Alex Smith, cornerback Jeff Beck and kicker Matthew Mintz.

Last year was considered a rebuilding season at **Gettysburg**, which could be potent in 2007 with quarterback Matt Flynn, tailback Tom Sturges (1,143 yards) and linebacker Harold Barton (100 tackles) returning to lead the way.

Rensselaer has two superb offensive weapons back in quarterback Jimmy Robertson (2,160 passing yards) and wide receiver Brendan McGowan (61 catches, 767 yards). Lineman Vince Scicchitano and linebacker Tom Rayhill return to lead the defense.

The winner of one national title (1999), **Pacific Lutheran**, appears close to joining the elite once again. Defensive linemen Andrew Eisentrout and Robert Thomsen and linebacker Chad Blau will lead a strong Lutes defense.

Ripon could challenge St. Norbert in the Midwest Conference with 16 starters back from a 7-3 squad.

Six starters return from **John Carroll**'s sixth-ranked NCAA defense, including defensive back Carlo Melaragno and linebacker Michael Nettling.

Wisconsin-Platteville returns big-time running back Mike Genslinger (1,028 yards, 11 TDs).

SUNY-Brockport has eight defensive starters back, including defensive end Dale Buck and several key players on offense.

A strong defense and the return of two experienced quarterbacks will make **Baldwin-Wallace** a solid team.

Street & Smith's D3 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

- QB Alex Kofoed *(6-2, 201, Sr.) Saint John's*
- RB Nate Kmic *(5-9, 190, Jr.) Mount Union*
- RB Travis Sivek *(6-0, 235, Sr.) Carnegie Mellon*
- WR Joe Cline *(5-11, 190, Sr.) Alma*
- WR Pierre Garcon *(6-1, 205, Sr.) Mount Union*
- WR Jay Jay Vanderstyne *(6-0, 191, Sr.) Rochester*
- OL Brennan Fortune *(6-3, 285, Sr.) St. John Fisher*
- OL Derek Blanchard *(6-1, 310, Sr.) Mount Union*
- OL Geoff Rowson *(6-2, 300, Sr.) Wheaton*
- OL Jordan Purdy *(6-4, 288, Sr.) Wilkes*
- OL Dan Kasper *(6-3, 280, Sr.) North Central*
- TE Nolan Swett *(6-5, 214, Sr.) Colorado College*
- PK Jeff Schebler *(6-0, 188, So.) Wisconsin-Whitewater*

DEFENSE

- DL Andrew Eisentrout *(6-4, 230, Sr.) Pacific Lutheran*
- DL Andy Studebaker *(6-5, 249, Sr.) Wheaton*
- DL Matt Rugenstein *(6-3, 250, Sr.) Hope*
- DL Nick Gunderson *(6-4, 250, Jr.) Saint John's*
- LB Cody Pierce *(5-10, 194, Sr.) Buena Vista*
- LB Eric Dube *(5-10, 200, Sr.) Dickinson*
- LB Jerrell Freeman *(6-0, 195, Sr.) Mary Hardin-Baylor*
- LB Adrian Pynenberg *(5-11, 215, Sr.) Wabash*
- DB Steve Arguelles *(5-11, 185, So.) Coast Guard*
- DB Joe Harasymiak *(5-11, 185, Sr.) Springfield*
- DB Chase Palmer *(6-3, 210, Sr.) Oberlin*
- DB Matt Kostelnik *(6-1, 198, Sr.) Mount Union*
- P Kevin Soflkiancs *(5-9, 175, Sr.) Baldwin-Wallace*

Expect Saint Francis to be bridesmaid no more

By **JONATHAN WOOG**
Street & Smith's Copy Editor

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics experienced a couple of firsts in its 51st title game last season. It was the first time in the championship's history that two teams (Sioux Falls and Saint Francis) with the same mascot (Cougars) played for all the marbles. It was also the first year Carroll didn't win it all after four straight titles (2002-05). And it was the third straight year Saint Francis played the runner-up role.

Sioux Falls will look to defend its title and win back-to-back championships, but the usual suspects, Saint Francis and Carroll, will be in the mix.

It's become an unpleasant refrain for **Saint Francis** (Ind.) the past three years, as the Cougars have finished runners-up for the NAIA championship, twice to Carroll (2004-05) and most recently to Sioux Falls.

But maybe 2007 is Coach Kevin Donley's chance at glory as eight starters return on offense, led by running backs Daniel Carter and Doug Wasylk. Jeff Wedding steps in at quarterback after seeing limited action last season, and returns a pair of receivers, Bo Thompson and Zach Rainey, who combined for 1,621 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2006. The hope will be that the Cougars' offense can put enough points on the board with the loss of five starters on defense, the most important being last year's NAIA Player of the Year, Brian Kurtz.

Coming off its second NAIA championship in a decade, **Sioux Falls** has the firepower to repeat. National Coach-of-the-Year Kalen DeBoer's team returns quarterback Chad Cavendar, who led the NAIA in passing yards (3,674) and touchdowns (38) last season. The offensive line returns four starters to protect Cavendar, but he will be without his top target, wide receiver Dusty Hovorka, and running back Mike Dvoracek. Look for senior Trey Erickson to fill the void left by Dvoracek.

Carroll (Mont.) found itself in unusual territory last season, heading home early without an NAIA championship. The Saints were bounced in the quarterfinals by Saint Xavier. But with senior QB John Barnett and tight end Marshall McKewen leading the offense and a defense that allowed only 5.8 points per game in '06, another title run is quite possible.

Teams best watch out for **Missouri Valley**, as the Vikings return 17 starters from last season's squad. A strong defense led by end Larry Wentzel will have to carry the Vikings while they break in a new quarterback.

Saint Xavier was responsible for ending Carroll's championship streak last season, and it will look to play spoiler again with the return of QB Billy Yeo and running back Jason Banning to the offense and linebacker Sean Kenney on defense.

Behind the one-two punch of running backs Adrian Smith (Mid-South Conference Player of the Year) and Terrance Bell, **Bethel** has its sights set on a third straight Mid-South Conference Western Division championship and a return to the NAIA playoffs.

Northwestern (Iowa) must replace standout linebacker Austin Janssen, last year's Great Plains Athletic Conference Player of the Year, but returns seven starters on defense, including first-team all-conference lineman Tim Martin.

Standout quarterback Jeff Smith has graduated, but senior Andy Ahrens is expected to be an able replacement at **Georgetown** (Ky.). His top target will be wideout Brian Piper. On defense, Mid-South Defensive Player-of-the-Year Clay Hamblen returns.

The ground attack will be the key to **St. Ambrose's** return to the NAIA postseason, with running back Vernon Reed leading the way.

Going for a fourth consecutive NAIA playoff berth, **Morningside** will depend heavily on a strong secondary led by Chad Hustedt.

TOP 10

1. SAINT FRANCIS (IND.)
2. SIOUX FALLS (S.D.)
3. CARROLL (MONT.)
4. MISSOURI VALLEY
5. SAINT XAVIER (ILL.)
6. BETHEL (TENN.)
7. NORTHWESTERN (IOWA)
8. GEORGETOWN (KY.)
9. ST. AMBROSE (IOWA)
10. MORNINGSIDE (IOWA)

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Chad Cavendar (6-0, 185, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D.)
RB	Adrian Smith (5-10, 190, Sr.) Bethel (Tenn.)
RB	Ra'Shad Morgan (5-10, 208, Sr.) Virginia-Wise
OL	Mike Galassi (6-3, 305, Sr.) Walsh (Ohio)
OL	Kris Vasquez (6-0, 310, Sr.) Missouri Valley
OL	Henry Potter (6-1, 292, Jr.) Virginia-Wise
OL	Brady Schwebach (6-0, 270, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D.)
OL	Truman Ashby (6-3, 280, Sr.) Benedictine (Kan.)
WR	Jared Stace (5-9, 185, Sr.) Ohio Dominican
WR	Deon Dukes (6-0, 165, Sr.) Trinity International (Ill.)
TE	Josiah Fenceroy (6-3, 235, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D.)
PK	Shane Longest (5-11, 180, Sr.) Saint Xavier (Ill.)
RS	Travis Carter (5-8, 170, So.) Cumberland (Tenn.)

DEFENSE

DL	Larry Wentzel (6-2, 240, Jr.) Missouri Valley
DL	Jeff McQuinn (6-3, 255, Sr.) Peru State
DL	Joe Berrow (5-10, 295, Jr.) Georgetown (Ky.)
DL	Tim Farrell (6-2, 239, Jr.) Saint Francis (Ind.)
LB	J.J. Perino (6-1, 221, Sr.) Montana Tech
LB	Owen Koeppen (6-2, 238, Jr.) Carroll (Mont.)
LB	Quentin Sterling (5-9, 220, Jr.) Valley City State (N.D.)
DB	Clay Hamblen (6-0, 185, Sr.) Georgetown (Ky.)
DB	Tanner Tetrault (6-2, 190, Sr.) Black Hills State (N.D.)
DB	Marc Samson (5-8, 174, Sr.) Montana State-Northern
DB	Chad Hustedt (6-2, 190, Sr.) Morningside (Iowa)
P	Zac Atterberry (6-2, 186, Sr.) Lindenwood (Mo.)

TOP RETURNING STATS LEADERS FROM 2006

OFFENSE

PASSING

	YR	G	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT	RATING
Chad Cavender, Sioux Falls (S.D.)	JR	14	358	246	3674	38	6	186.6
Ryan Henry, Belhaven (Miss.)	SO	11	337	216	2950	24	9	155.8
Cris Reisert, Ohio Dominican	SO	10	352	244	2780	22	5	153.4

RUSHING

	YR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Ra'Shad Morgan, Virginia-Wise	JR	11	306	1657	5.4	25	150.6
Beau Cox, Bethel (Kan.)	SO	11	276	1556	5.6	14	141.5
Vernon Reed, Saint Ambrose (Iowa)	JR	11	248	1418	5.7	16	128.9

RECEPTIONS

	YR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
James Perry, MidAmerica Nazarene	JR	10	87	919	10	8.7
Deon Dukes, Trinity International (Ill.)	JR	11	70	1044	7	6.4
Casey Kelly, Montana Tech	JR	10	68	662	2	6.8

SCORING

	YR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Ra'Shad Morgan, Virginia-Wise	JR	11	25	0	0	150	13.6
Lee Dyson, Belhaven (Miss.)	JR	11	17	0	0	106	9.6
Vernon Reed, Saint Ambrose (Iowa)	JR	11	16	0	0	96	8.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES

	YR	G	SOLO	AST	TOTAL
Eric Putmon, West Virginia Tech	JR	11	75	64	139
Clint Peery, William Penn (Iowa)	JR	11	71	55	126
Oscar Guerrero, Southwestern (Kan.)	JR	10	60	50	110

SACKS

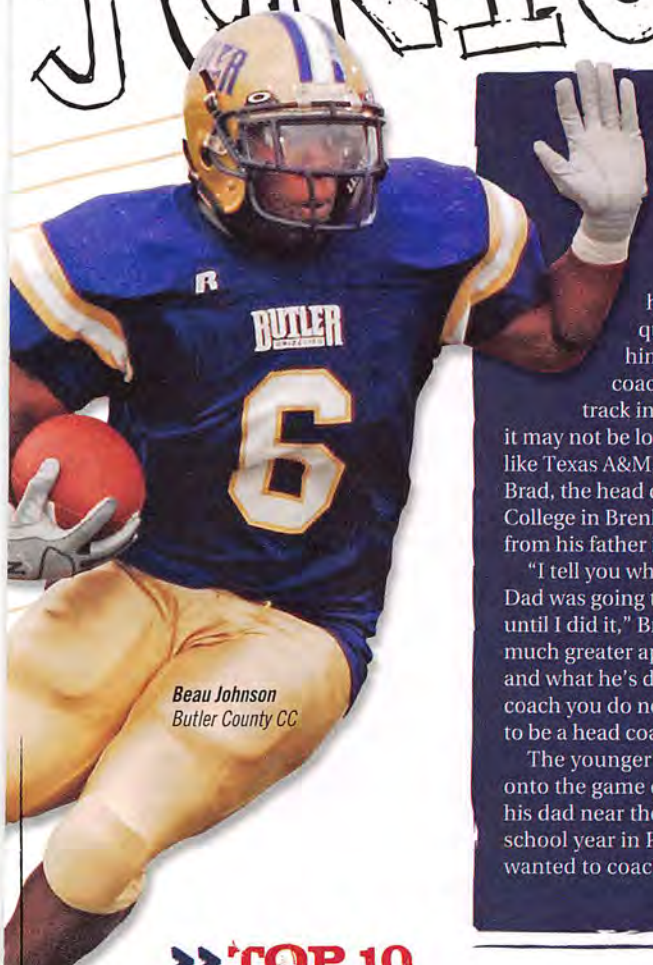
	YR	G	NO	YDS
J.J. Perino, Montana Tech	JR	10	16.5	78
Larry Wentzel, Missouri Valley	SO	13	14.0	114
Josh Glahn, Montana State-Northern	JR	12	11.5	76

INTERCEPTIONS

	YR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Phil Schroer, Nebraska Wesleyan	SO	10	9	117	0	0.9
Ryan Oetken, Morningside (Iowa)	SO	12	8	101	1	0.7
Brandon Goss, Cumberlands (Ky.)	FR	9	8	13	0	0.9

JUNIOR COLLEGE REPORT

By Tony Jimenez
Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal



Beau Johnson
Butler County CC

Franchione on fast track to coaching success, and could join dad in Division I ranks soon

Brad Franchione grew up wanting nothing more than to please his father, Dennis, who was quickly making a name for himself as a top college football coach. Now Brad's on the fast track in the profession as well, and it may not be long before he's at a school like Texas A&M, where his father coaches. Brad, the head coach at Blinn (Texas) Junior College in Brenham, is only about 30 miles from his father in College Station.

"I tell you what, I never understood what Dad was going through as a head coach until I did it," Brad says. "Now I have a much greater appreciation of what he did and what he's doing. Until you are a head coach you do not understand what it's like to be a head coach."

The younger Franchione has caught onto the game quickly since declaring to his dad near the end of his senior high school year in Pittsburg, Kan., that he wanted to coach.

"He called and said, 'Dad, I need to talk to you,'" Dennis recalls. "I thought, 'Uh, oh.' I wondered what was so important."

Now, at age 33, Brad has Blinn squarely in the national juco limelight after having served in a variety of coaching positions at eight schools in seven states. Despite losing vision in his left eye from an automobile accident in high school and being in the large shadow of his father, Brad put a big exclamation point on his career last season by guiding Blinn to the national junior-college championship.

"I didn't do a single thing to guide him into coaching," Dennis says. "In fact I probably discouraged it, although maybe not vocally. I'd say it's worked out pretty well. I like that he has a good imagination and a no-nonsense approach to the game. And there aren't many coaches around who win national championships in their second year as a head coach."

Brad (left) and Dennis Franchione >>

>> TOP 10

1> El Camino CC	6> Fresno City College
2> Pearl River CC	7> Blinn College
3> Bakersfield College	8> Grossmont CC
4> City College of San Francisco	9> Cisco JC
5> Butler County CC	10> Saddleback CC

1> El Camino CC

(Calif.), 12-2 in '06

Four-year-school coaches have long known the way to El Camino in Torrance, as the program has become the USC of the two-year-school circuit. However, never before in his 22 years has Coach John Featherstone had his cupboard so full of quality players. With eight returning starters on defense and five on offense and almost every one of them legitimate major college prospects, it's easy to see why optimism abounds. The best of the lot includes Justin Thompson, a 6-4, 265-pound dominant defensive end who has the likes of USC, Miami, Ohio State and LSU recruiting him; Corey Surrency, a fearless receiver who might be playing for pay on Sundays down the line; Lamar Chapman, whose 5-8, 160-pound size is smaller than his big game at cornerback; and 6-5, 320-pound offensive tackle Daniel Mafoe, another potential NFL prospect. Others of significance include Simi Kuli, an excellent rush end; Cedric Mack, a monster offensive lineman; Joseph Perkins, a free safety who had six picks as a freshman; speedy receiver Verran Tucker; and Tavares Pressley, a breathtaking juco All-America transfer running back from in-state Monterey Peninsula College who also is an excellent return man. The list seems endless, as do the possibilities for a special season.

2> Pearl River CC

(Miss.), 10-2

There are many coaches in the U.S. that would love to accomplish what Tim Hatten has in five seasons at Pearl River. He has a 47-6 record with a National Junior College Athletic Association championship under his belt (2004) and another appearance in the title game (2006). With a dozen returnees—eight on defense, four on offense—at hand, Hatten should continue to work his magic. The defense is so loaded that Hatten projects every starter to wind up with a Division I scholarship, and the incoming class is quality as well. Receiver Roger Frazier, a transfer from Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College who had off-the-field problems and didn't play last season, should knock the rust off quickly and be a big contributor. Sophomores in linebacker Keon Wilson (6-1, 225 pounds) and defensive back Brandon Burns (6-2, 210) are cut from prime-time cloth.

3> Bakersfield College

(Calif.), 11-2

With 14 freshmen starters of a year ago (eight on defense, six on offense), the Renegades are ready to roll as sophomores, with a little bit of everything everywhere. Tailback Pat Patterson; receivers Attrail Snipes and Brandon Banks; offensive guard Mike Papac (6-4, 273 pounds); and offensive lineman Gary Sumlin (6-3, 225) are the heart of the offense. The defense has plenty of star power as well in tackle Daniel Calvin (6-4, 310); end Aaron King (6-4, 235); and linebackers Daron Mackey (6-0, 220) and Lamont Whitehead. Quarterback Jacob Bower (BYU) is a heralded Division I transfer.

(L TO R): RANDY SMITH / BUTLER CC; DAVID J. PHILLIP / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

4> City College of San Francisco
(Calif.), 10-2

When Coach George Rush took charge of the San Francisco program just over three decades ago, none of this year's players were even born. With a 248-78 record, Rush has helped the Rams become one of the most significant forces in the national junior-college ranks, sending countless players to major college programs. Look for the same song, different verse this time around. With 10 returning starters, San Francisco will again be a legitimate challenger for all of the two-year-school marbles. Among the best sophomores on this season's roster are linebacker Nick Thurston (6-1, 245 pounds); receiver Adrian Hilburn (6-2, 190); defensive lineman Donald Phelps; and safety Rashad Swanson (6-0, 185). Add hotshot Devin Mays, a 5-11, 170-pound cornerback, to the mix and it's easy to see why the winning ways will continue in the city by the Bay.

5> Butler County CC
(Kan.), 11-1

Coach Troy Morrell knows having a running back the caliber of Rudi Johnson (Cincinnati Bengals) on your team as Butler once did (1998-99) is usually a once-in-a-lifetime deal. But get ready for the second coming of Rudi. This one, Beau, is also a Johnson. He has the same build and style as Rudi, only Beau has more speed, according to Morrell. Beau averaged 6.2 yards per carry as a freshman and tops an offense that includes 12 returning lettermen. The defense, which also has a dozen letterwinners back, will be spurred by cornerback Maurice Gray. A nice freshman class will come on strong in a system augmented by one of the most unheralded assistant coaches at any collegiate level in Steve Braet (he has been at Butler 28 seasons), which allows newcomers to learn the game fast. Morrell, one of the best coaches at any collegiate level, definitely has it going on at Butler, with a 73-10 record in seven years and three NJCAA championship game appearances since 2001, with a title victory in 2003.

6> Fresno City College
(Calif.), 8-3

If a tough schedule truly makes or breaks a team, look for Fresno City to be one tough cookie when this year shakes out. The Rams have road games in 2007 against some of California's toughest jucos: Feather River, Sacramento City, City College of San Francisco, College of the Sequoias and Reedley. Fresno City will try to do damage with Derek Shaw, a highly touted QB transfer who has been at Arizona State and Texas Tech the last two seasons, at the controls. He has size (6-4, 215 pounds), is talented and a strong-armed pocket passer with good speed (4.8 in the 40). Shaw is the type of player you can build an offense around. There will also be nine returning starters among the two units, the best of the lot being bookend receivers Arsenio Curry (6-5, 210) and Jon Blea (6-4, 194); center Bronson Tiwanek (6-2, 285); and cornerback Lawrence Hood (5-10, 175).

7> Blinn College
(Texas), 12-0

Last year, there was no debate about who the best juco team was as Blinn captured the No. 1 spot in in the NJCAA poll. Blinn and Lackawanna (Pa.) College (10-0) were the only schools in the country at season's end that were undefeated. While Blinn won't be as powerful as it was a year ago, there's still plenty of talent to go along with one of the brightest coaching minds in the juco ranks, Brad Franchione. Standout players include linebackers Terrance Flagg and Sterling Lewis, offensive guard Quintin Johnson and defensive end Emannuel Stephens. Freshmen of note are offensive lineman Marquis Franklin (6-6, 315 pounds) and defensive back Corey West (6-4, 190).

8> Grossmont CC
(Calif.), 10-2

The coach's name, Michael Jordan, may conjure up basketball thoughts, but make no mistake, this MJ has helped Grossmont establish itself as one of the premier two-year football schools in the land. After taking the head-coaching reins last season from his father, Dave, Michael had to adjust to five position-coaching changes, yet the Griffins still had a chance to be the California state champion. With six returnees on both offense and defense, Grossmont will be much improved in many aspects, including a more cohesive coaching staff, some seasoned sophomores and a bevy of fabulous freshmen. Sophomores of note should be offensive tackle Charles Millenbah (6-5, 305 pounds); linebackers Kyle Marsom (6-2, 233) and Jacob Tauanuu (6-1, 225); defensive tackle Magnum Mauga (6-0, 270); and defensive lineman Matt Moss (6-4, 265).

9> Cisco JC
(Texas), 6-4

The Southwest Conference is arguably the toughest in the NJCAA ranks. Blinn is good and the other six teams (Cisco, Kilgore, Navarro, Trinity Valley, Tyler and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M) have had their share of solid seasons as well. This time around, Cisco looks to be the chief challenger to Blinn, last year's national champion. With 10 starters back on offense and nine returning on defense, the Wranglers' game experience and consistent depth is almost scary. But can they live up to such lofty expectations? Second-year Coach John Parchman will count on sophomores in tackle Ricky McNatt (6-0, 280 pounds) and receiver Dorian Williams (6-2, 180) to lead the offense and strong safety Jocques Crawford (who played running back last season) and defensive end McKinner Dixon (6-3, 275) to highlight the defense. Influential freshmen include linebacker Dwayne Baziel (6-3, 240).

10> Saddleback CC
(Calif.), 11-1

Coach Mark McElroy is pinning his hopes for another big campaign on a trio of good quarterbacks in Brian Schrock, a 6-0, 180-pound first-year collegian; Sebastian Trujillo, who was last season's backup; and Joe Villegas, a 6-3, 195-pound redshirt freshman. Eight returning starters (four each on offense and defense) will be the catalyst of a team that includes plenty of talent. Leading the way are running backs Andrew Nakihei (5-9, 190 pounds) and Cheyne Verhagen (a 2004 starter who is coming off a Mormon mission); receivers Maurice Clark (6-3, 200) and Donald Hawthorne (who has a 4.3 40 time); linebackers Charles Johnson (6-2, 225) and Ben Terry (6-1, 210); and safeties Michael Ciaccio (6-1, 195) and Rico Russo (6-0, 185). Also watch out for sure-footed kicker Eric Carr, who made 42 of 46 extra points and eight of 10 field goals as a freshman last year.

BEST OF THE REST

11. Copiah-Lincoln (Miss.) CC, 9-3
12. Santa Rosa (Calif.) JC, 10-1
13. Mississippi Gulf Coast CC, 7-2
14. Foothill (Calif.) College, 10-1
15. Moorpark (Calif.) College, 9-2
16. Palomar (Calif.) College, 6-5
17. Snow (Utah) College, 11-1
18. Joliet (Ill.) JC, 7-4
19. College of the Canyons (Calif.), 5-5
20. Hutchinson (Kan.) CC, 0-9
21. Riverside (Calif.) CC, 5-5
22. Georgia Military College, 8-3
23. Nassau (N.Y.) CC, 6-4
24. Fullerton (Calif.) CC, 5-5
25. Glendale (Ariz.) CC, 9-2

TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

OFFENSE

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2007 SCHOOL)
Cade Cooper	QB	6-2, 205	Snow, Utah (BYU)
Patrick Gates	RB	5-11, 195	Saddleback, Calif. (Colorado)
Bernard Scott	RB	5-10, 187	Blinn, Texas (Abilene Christian)
Larry Warner	RB	5-6, 175	Mississippi Gulf Coast (Southern Illinois)
Alesana Alesana	OL	6-6, 318	City College of San Francisco, (Kansas State)
Collin Boulay	OL	6-1, 280	Glendale, Ariz. (Western New Mexico)
JAKE JOHNSON	OL	6-7, 330	Blinn, Texas (Texas Tech)
Steven Lightsey Jr.	OL	6-5, 330	Fresno City, Calif. (San Jose State)
Vince Vance	OL	6-7, 315	Georgia Military (Georgia)
Brennan Houston	TE	6-4, 265	Cerritos, Calif. (Southern Miss)
Terence Scott	WR	6-0, 180	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Oregon)

DEFENSE

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2007 SCHOOL)
Jessie Bowman	DL	6-1, 305	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss. (Mississippi St.)
TONGA TEA	DL	6-0, 310	Snow, Utah (Oklahoma State)
Luis Vasquez	DL	6-3, 260	Arizona Western (Arizona State)
Anthony Fein	LB	6-3, 246	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Mississippi)
Austin Panter	LB	6-4, 240	Butler, Kan. (Michigan)
Vuna Tuihalamaka	LB	6-0, 225	El Camino, Calif. (Arizona)
Gary Chandler	DB	6-0, 190	Coffeyville, Kan. (Kansas State)
Terry Mixon	DB	6-2, 210	Grossmont, Calif. (Washington State)
Woodny Turenne	DB	6-1, 185	College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Louisville)
Armando Murrillo	DB	5-11, 190	Eastern Arizona (Nebraska)

SPECIALISTS

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2007 SCHOOL)
Jared Ballman	PK	5-11, 170	Grossmont, Calif. (Washington)
Deon Murphy	ATH	5-10, 165	Coffeyville, Kan. (Kansas State)

OTHERS

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2007 SCHOOL)
Larry Asante	DB	6-1, 205	Coffeyville, Kan. (Nebraska)
Matt Asiata	RB	6-0, 235	Snow, Utah (Utah)
Brandon Barnett	RB	5-10, 190	Butler, Kan. (Arkansas)
J.J. Bass	RB	6-0, 215	El Camino, Calif. (Iowa State)
Jess Beets	OL	6-3, 210	Saddleback, Calif. (Kentucky)
Devin Bishop	LB	6-2, 215	City College of San Francisco (California)
R.J. Brisbon	OL	6-6, 330	Northwest Mississippi (Houston)
Demetrius Byrd	WR	6-2, 195	Pearl River, Miss. (LSU)
Michael Carter	DB	6-0, 190	Erie, N.Y. (Maryland)
Curtis Cornelson	LB	6-1, 225	Bakersfield, Calif. (Colorado State)
Travis Crawford	DB	5-11, 180	Southwestern, Calif. (San Diego State)
Naseri Eteuini	OL	6-3, 310	Butler, Kan. (Houston)
Kayne Farquharson	WR	6-2, 190	El Camino, Calif. (Miami)
Wallace Franklin	WR	6-3, 170	Butler, Kan. (Iowa St.)
Dion Gales	DE	6-7, 288	Mississippi Gulf Coast (Troy)
Chet Hartley	OL	6-4, 305	Butler, Kan. (Kansas)
Scott Haverkamp	OL	6-4, 300	Butler, Kan. (Georgia)
Devon Hicks	DE	6-3, 240	Northwest Mississippi (turned pro)
Antoine Holmes	DL	6-4, 270	Lackawanna, Pa. (North Carolina State)
A.J. Jackson	WR	6-6, 226	College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Mississippi)
Chris Leatigaga	DL	6-5, 270	Foothill, Calif. (Hawaii)
T.J. Lee	WR	6-0, 200	Bakersfield, Calif. (East Carolina)
Vaughn Lesuma	OL	6-5, 340	Mount San Jacinto, Calif. (Washington State)
Phil Loadholt	OL	6-9, 360	Garden City, Kan. (Oklahoma)
Ryan Mouton	DB	5-10, 180	Blinn, Texas (Hawaii)
Richard Murrell	RB	6-0, 240	Riverside, Calif. (Weber State)
Kenny O'Neal	WR	6-0, 195	City College of San Francisco (Tennessee)
Marquis Powell	DB	5-10, 205	Gulf Coast, Fla. (Southeast Louisiana)
Mike Reed	LB	6-4, 245	Yuba, Calif. (Oklahoma)
Patrick Resby	SS	6-1, 200	Navarro, Texas (Kansas)
Co-Eric Riley	WR	6-2, 210	Mississippi Gulf Coast (Mississippi State)
Donte Spires	LB	6-1, 225	Pearl River, Miss. (South Florida)
Steve Stutsman	DL	6-3, 240	Santa Rosa, Calif. (Weber State)
William Tukuafau	DL	6-4, 265	Mesa, Ariz. (Oregon)
John Weed	QB	6-4, 223	Tyler, Texas (Baylor)
Morris Wooten	LB	6-1, 235	Glendale, Ariz. (Arizona State)
Jarius Wynn	DL	6-2, 270	Georgia Military (Georgia)

SUPER SOPHOMORES

OFFENSE

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO
Chris Todd	QB	6-2, 212	Hutchinson, Kan.
Leonard Mason	RB	5-11, 200	Citrus, Calif.
Beau Johnson	RB	5-11, 210	Butler, Kan.
LeGarrette Blount	RB	6-2, 200	East Mississippi
Kindley Jacques	OL	6-7, 325	College of The Sequoias, Calif.
Ryan Roget	OL	6-3, 290	Tyler, Texas
Michael Diaz	OL	6-5, 325	Cerritos, Calif.
David Tufuga	OL	6-1, 320	Snow, Utah
Joe Suder	OL	6-6, 320	Arizona Western
Patrick Wilkinson	TE	6-5, 245	Georgia Military
Deryn Bowser	WR	6-3, 215	Los Angeles Harbor, Calif.

DEFENSE

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO
Magnum Mauga	DL	6-0, 280	Grossmont, Calif.
Raven Gray	DL	6-4, 255	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss.
Tony Epps	DL	6-1, 270	Coffeyville, Kan.
Terrence Cody	DL	6-5, 375	Mississippi Gulf Coast
Mike Bethea	LB	6-3, 245	Palomar, Calif.
Daron Mackey	LB	6-0, 225	Bakersfield, Calif.
Sterling Lewis	LB	6-0, 218	Blinn, Texas
Lamar Chapman	DB	5-9, 165	El Camino, Calif.
Jocques Crawford	DB	6-0, 215	Cisco, Texas
Rashad Swanson	DB	6-0, 185	City College of San Francisco
Adryan Adams	DB	6-1, 185	Northeast Oklahoma A&M

SPECIALISTS

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO
Aubrey Quarles	AP	6-2, 185	Santa Rosa, Calif.
Kenny Ashley	P	5-9, 220	Arizona Western
Eric Carr	PK	5-10, 170	Saddleback, Calif.
Tavares Pressley	RET	6-2, 205	El Camino, Calif.

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY GARY CHIDESTER / SNOW COLLEGE; COURTESY CHARLIE KELM / BLINN COLLEGE

Street & Smith's

2007 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

EARLY BIRDS

Our annual list of the nation's Top 50 high school football players includes 20 who have already made their college destinations known.

By Doug Huff

Nearly half of the athletes on the 26th annual *Street & Smith's* High School All-America Football Team made future college plans before their junior year in high school ended in the spring.

Twenty of the elite Top 50 honorees on the preseason honor roll had given 13 colleges non-binding verbal OKs for scholarships starting in 2008. That's the most junior-year commitments by the Top 50 in the history of the selections. The binding NCAA scholarships can't be signed until February.

Oklahoma led the early list with four verbals. Ohio State received three, all from offensive linemen, while Texas and Georgia had two each.

The Sooners continue to raid neighboring Texas for talent with three Lone Star recruits—running back Jermie Calhoun of Van, offensive lineman Stephen Good of Paris and defensive end R.J. Washington of Fossil Ridge High in Keller. The fourth Sooner commitment is quarterback Landry Jones from Artesia, N.M.

Ohio State's three line recruits from the Top 50 are Mike Adams of Coffman High in the Columbus area, Michael Brewster of Orlando (Fla.) Edgewater and J.B. Shugarts of Klein, Texas.

The University of Texas landed two in-state talents with quarterback Riley Dodge of Southlake Carroll and wide receiver Dan Buckner of Allen. The Longhorns may opt to use Dodge at his former position, wide receiver, when he reports to Austin.

Georgia received verbals from wide receiver A.J. Green of Summerville, S.C., and in-state defensive end Cornelius Washington of Burke County High in Waynesboro.

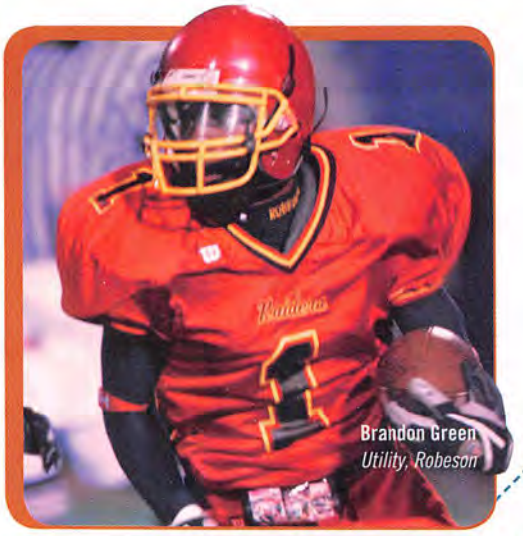
The Top 50 selections hail from 25 states, with Texas, California and Florida producing seven selections each.

Here's a position-by-position breakdown of *Street & Smith's* Top 50:

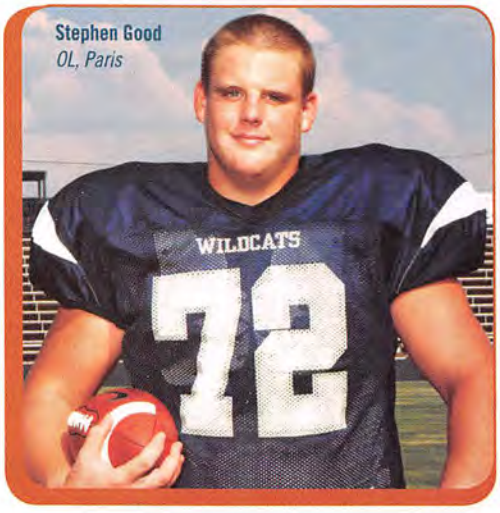
QUARTERBACKS

Two of the seven honorees are from Texas—Dodge and Andrew Luck from Stratford High in Houston—and both are sons of former college quarterbacks.

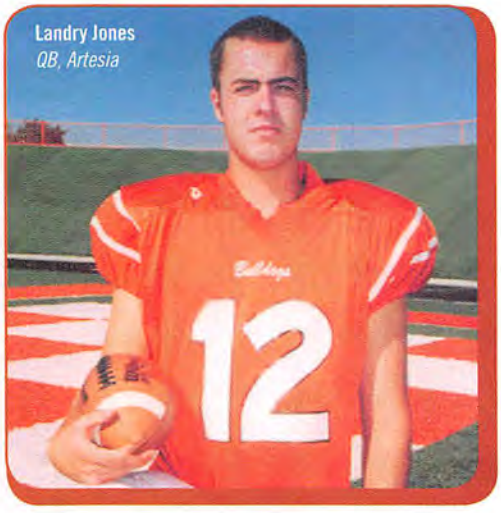
Dodge has never played in a losing high school game as Carroll takes a 48-game winning streak into the season while in search of a fourth straight Class 5A championship. The son of ex-Longhorn QB Todd Dodge—the Carroll coach until he opted for the head-coaching job at the University of North Texas after last season—passed for 4,184 yards and 54 touchdowns and rushed for 1,119 yards and 13 more scores in the Dragons' spread offense. He was named the Class 5A Player of the



Brandon Green
Utility, Robeson



Stephen Good
OL, Paris



Landry Jones
QB, Artesia

TOP: COURTESY VINAY MULLICK / PAUL ROBESON HS; BOTTOM (L TO R): COURTESY LARRY WHEELER / PARIS HS; COURTESY DOUG HUFF

Year and National Junior of the Year by *Student Sports* magazine.

Luck, the son of ex-West Virginia University and Houston Oilers QB Oliver Luck, passed for 2,926 yards and 27 TDs with six interceptions last season. He also rushed for 714 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Jones could be the most highly recruited prospect out of New Mexico in several years. The future Sooner led Artesia to a 13-0 record and Class 4A title last season. He passed for 3,432 yards and 45 TDs and rushed for nine more scores to earn New Mexico Player of the Year.

Notre Dame received an early commitment from a player at Notre Dame High in Sherman Oaks, Calif., Dayne Crist. The *CalHiSports.com* All-State Underclass honoree helped his team to an unbeaten regular season as he passed for 1,270 yards and 17 TDs with only three picks in just seven games.

One of the top football/basketball athletes in the land is Terrelle Pryor of Jeannette, Pa. In football last season, he rushed for 1,676 yards and passed for 1,732 yards and 15 scores. Overall, he tallied 29 TDs, including one as a receiver. Comparisons to Vince Young have been made.

Last year's New Jersey Player of the Year returns in versatile Will Hill from St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City. Hill, like Pryor, a two-way player, amassed 3,810 yards and accounted for 47 TDs in 12 games last season. He passed for 968 yards and 21 scores with only three interceptions; rushed for 1,024 yards and 14 TDs; landed 14 passes and scored four TDs; and returned 32 kicks with eight TDs. As a free safety, he intercepted six passes.

E.J. Manual of Bayside High in Virginia Beach, Va., has boosted his recruiting stock with recent summer-camp efforts. In 10 games last season, he passed for 1,973 yards and 15 scores and also rushed for 345 yards and five TDs.

RUNNING BACKS

Darrell Scott of St. Bonaventure High in Ventura, Calif., rates the No. 1 tag among the running backs. Last year, at Moorpark High, the *CalHiSports.com* Junior Player of the Year in California rushed for 3,194 yards and scored 45 touchdowns. He's joining a team expected to contend for state and national honors.

Another West Coast athlete, Milton Knox of Birmingham High in Lake Balboa, Calif., is coming off a junior season in which he rushed for 2,300-plus yards and earned All-State honors.

Kevin Whaley posted gaudy statistics last year when he earned All-State recognition at Salem High in Virginia Beach, Va. He scored 39 touchdowns while rushing for 1,981 yards.

The top-rated backs in Texas and Louisiana both earned first team All-State kudos as juniors. They are Oklahoma recruit Calhoun and Alonzo Landry of Carencro High in Lafayette, La.

UTILITY PLAYERS

Kenny Tate of DeMatha High in Hyattsville, Md., is another two-sport stalwart. A starter on a nationally ranked Stags basketball team, he could be the most highly recruited player in a decade from a school that produces several major-college signees most seasons. Tate plays wide receiver, defensive back and running back.

Brandon Green piled up big-time stats last season as a do-it-all player at Robeson High in Chicago. A three-sport athlete who played receiver, quarterback, defensive back, kick returner and kicker in 2006 at Robeson, he has piled up 5,703 all-purpose yards and scored 72 TDs, including 60 among 185 career passes.

WIDE RECEIVERS

The deepest position category for quality athletes this season could be wideout.

The top overall prospects in five states may be wide receivers.

In South Carolina, A.J. Green has already been named All-State three times at Summerville. Last season, the University of Georgia recruit landed 60 passes for 1,203 yards and 14 touchdowns and added three more scores on the ground.

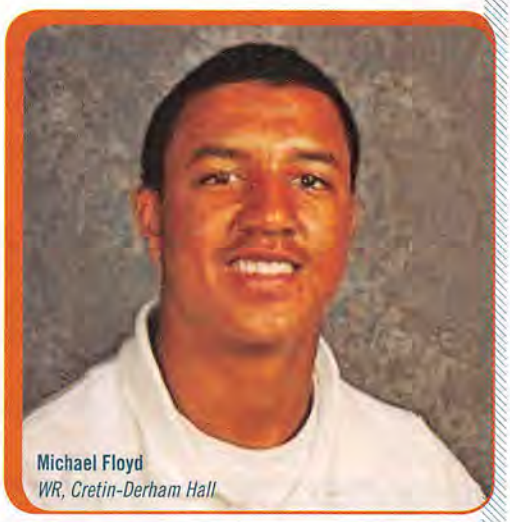
Northwestern High of Miami went unbeaten and won a Class 6A title in 2006 as Aldarius Johnson caught 72 passes for 1,361 yards and 19 TDs. Another Top 50 honoree, Martavious Odoms of Pahokee, also helped his unbeaten team win a state title in Florida. Odoms caught 46 passes for 971 yards and 14 scores.

The Minnesota Player of the Year returns this season in Michael Floyd of Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul. Last season, Floyd caught 63 passes for 1,240 yards and 16 scores and tacked on three rushing TDs.

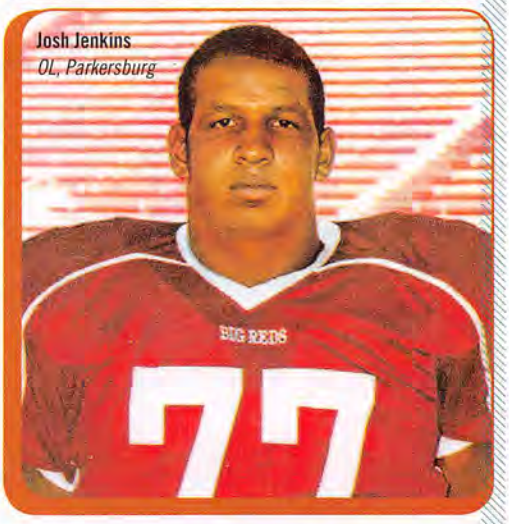
In Alabama, the top prospect is Julio Jones of Foley, while some analysts regard University of Texas recruit Buckner as No. 1 in the Lone Star State.

TIGHT ENDS

All three tight-end selections enjoyed celebrating state championships last season. Blake Ayles helped Lutheran High of Orange, Calif., to a 14-1 record. Tennessee recruit Aaron Douglas played a big role in Maryville, Tenn., capturing its third straight title and pushing its win streak to 45 games. Brigham Young University recruit Austin Holt helped Bingham High of South Jordan win a state title in Utah.



Michael Floyd
WR, Cretin-Derham Hall



Josh Jenkins
OL, Parkersburg

KICKERS

Jake Wieclaw of Lincoln-Way Central in New Lenox, Ill., has a new target this year after he set a state record in 2006 with 19 field goals in 23 attempts. He booted a pair of 49-yard three-pointers.

Blair Walsh of Gibbons High in Hollywood, Fla., was near perfect on his field goals by converting 12 of 13 with two regular-season boots of 45 yards, plus a 57-yarder in a preseason contest.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Ohio State may be cornering the market on touted blockers. The Buckeyes landed Ohio's top prospect in Adams (6-8, 305) as well as all-staters from Florida and Texas in Michael Brewster (6-6, 305) of Edgewater High in Orlando and J.B. Shugarts (6-7, 300) from Klein.

Other early commitments include Good (6-5, 290) to Oklahoma; West Virginia

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY JODI LOEBLEIN-LECKER / CRETIN-DERHAM HALL HS; COURTESY DOUG HUFF

TOP 50 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS to watch

QUARTERBACKS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Dayne Crist	6-5	228	Notre Dame	Sherman Oaks, CA
Riley Dodge	6-0	180	Carroll	Southlake, TX
Will Hill	6-3	215	St. Peter's Prep	Jersey City, NJ
Landry Jones	6-4	205	Artesia	Artesia, NM
Andrew Luck	6-3	195	Stratford	Houston, TX
E.J. Manual	6-4	200	Bayside	Virginia Beach, VA
Terrelle Pryor	6-6	220	Jeannette	Jeannette, PA

RUNNING BACKS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Jermie Calhoun	6-0	210	Van	Van, TX
Milton Knox	5-9	195	Birmingham	Lake Balboa, CA
Alonzo Landry	5-11	205	Carencro	Lafayette, LA
Darrell Scott	6-1	215	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA
Kevin Whaley	5-11	185	Salem	Virginia Beach, VA

UTILITY PLAYERS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Brandon Green	6-0	185	Robeson	Chicago, IL
Kenny Tate	6-3	215	DeMatha	Hyattsville, MD

WIDE RECEIVERS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Dan Buckner	6-4	215	Allen	Allen, TX
Michael Floyd	6-3	195	Cretin-Derham Hall	St. Paul, MN
A.J. Green	6-4	185	Summerville	Summerville, SC
Aldarius Johnson	6-3	195	Northwestern	Miami, FL
Julio Jones	6-4	215	Foley	Foley, AL
Martavious Odoms	5-8	170	Pahokee	Pahokee, FL

TIGHT ENDS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Blake Ayles	6-4	235	Lutheran	Orange, CA
Aaron Douglas	6-6	245	Maryville	Maryville, TN
Austin Holt	6-5	220	Bingham	South Jordan, UT

KICKERS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Blair Walsh	5-10	165	Gibbons	Hollywood, FL
Jake Wieclaw	6-3	185	Lincoln Way Central	New Lenox, IL

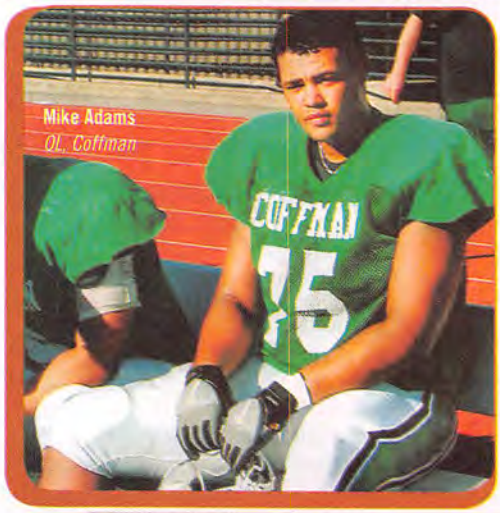
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Mike Adams	6-8	305	Coffman	Dublin, OH
Michael Brewster	6-6	305	Edgewater	Orlando, FL
Stephen Good	6-5	290	Paris	Paris, TX
Matt Hall	6-10	320	Dardanelle	Dardanelle, AR
A.J. Harmon	6-4	310	Jefferson County	Louisville, GA
Josh Jenkins	6-5	300	Parkersburg	Parkersburg, WV
Matt Kalil	6-6	265	Servite	Anaheim, CA
Matt Patchan	6-6	250	Armwood	Seffner, FL
J.B. Shugarts	6-7	300	Klein	Klein, TX
Alameda Ta'amu	6-4	345	Rainier Beach	Seattle, WA
Tyron Smith	6-4	255	Rancho Verde	Moreno Valley, CA

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Quinton Coples	6-6	245	Kinston	Kinston, NC
Ethan Johnson	6-4	255	Lincoln	Portland, OR
Kavario Middleton	6-6	250	Lakes	Lakewood, WA
Robert Quinn	6-5	245	Fort Dorchester	North Charleston, SC
Baker Steinkuhler	6-6	290	Southwest	Lincoln, NE
Cornelius Washington	6-4	225	Burke County	Waynesboro, GA
R.J. Washington	6-3	245	Fossil Ridge	Keller, TX

LINEBACKERS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Nigel Bradham	6-2	220	Wakulla	Crawfordville, FL
Arthur Brown	6-2	225	East	Wichita, KS
Steven Filer	6-3	220	Mt. Carmel	Chicago, IL
DeVoe Torrence	6-2	215	Washington	Massillon, OH

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
T.J. Bryant	5-11	170	Lincoln	Tallahassee, FL
Boubacar Cissoko	5-9	170	Cass Tech	Detroit, MI
Rahim Moore	6-2	190	Dorsey	Los Angeles, CA

Terrelle Pryor
QB, Jeannette



Mike Adams
OL, Coffman

Lineman-of-the-Year Josh Jenkins (6-5, 300) to WVU; Matt Kalil (6-6, 265) of Anaheim (Calif.) Servite to USC; and mammoth Matt Hall (6-10, 320) of Dardanelle, Ark., to Arkansas.

The other highly recruited interior linemen are A.J. Harmon (6-4, 310) from Jefferson County High in Louisville, Ga.; Matt Patchan (6-6, 250) of Armwood High in Seffner, Fla.; Alameda Ta'amu (6-4, 345) of Rainier Beach High in Seattle; and Tyron Smith (6-4, 255) from Rancho Verde High in Moreno Valley, Calif.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

A son of an All-America lineman at Nebraska highlights the down linemen. Baker Steinkuhler (6-6, 290), who has earned All-State honors both for offense and defense at Southwest High in Lincoln, will follow his father, Dean, and become a Cornhusker.

Two other recruits are end Cornelius Washington (6-4, 225) of Burke County High in Waynesboro, Ga., to Georgia, and end R.J. Washington (6-3, 245) of Fossil Ridge High in Keller, Texas, to Oklahoma.

Other honorees are two-sport standout Quinton Coples (6-6, 245) of Kinston, N.C.; Ethan Johnson (6-4, 255) of Lincoln High in Portland, Ore; and Robert Quinn (6-5, 245) of Fort Dorchester High in North Charleston, S.C.

LINEBACKERS

Florida State recruit Nigel Bradham (6-2, 220) of Wakulla High in Crawfordville, Fla., gets high marks from the scouting analysts and some believe he might be the top prospect in the Sunshine State.

In Kansas, the No. 1 recruit is Arthur Brown (6-2, 225) of East High in Wichita, an All-State choice who also plays fullback.

Mount Carmel High in Chicago has a rich football tradition and Steven Filer (6-3, 220) is being compared to some of the school's all-time greats.

DeVoe Torrence (6-2, 215) recorded more than 130 tackles and six sacks last season at Canton South before transferring to famed Washington High in Massillon, Ohio's winningest all-time program.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Boubacar Cissoko of Cass Tech in Detroit was the first early commitment for the University of Michigan. The cornerback is rated the top prospect in the state.

Florida and California are home to the other secondary selections. T.J. Bryant translates his hurdling speed in track to the gridiron for Lincoln High in Tallahassee.

Rahim Moore is highly recruited entering his senior season at Dorsey High in Los Angeles.

COURTESY DOUG HUFF (2)

OTHER PREP SENIORS TO WATCH

QUARTERBACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Darius Banks	Culver City	Culver City, CA
Dominique Britt	Trotwood-Madison	Trotwood, OH
Nick Crissman	Edison	Huntington Beach, CA
Blaine Gabbert	Parkway West	Ballwin, MO
Blaine Gautier	Lutcher	Lutcher, LA
Mark Ginther	Jenks	Jenks, OK
Mike Glennon	Westfield	Chantilly, VA
Sonny Gray	Smyrna	Smyrna, TN
Nick Green	Central Catholic	Portland, OR
Braden Hanson	Latin	Charlotte, NC
Jacory Harris	Northwestern	Miami, FL
D.C. Jefferson	Winter Haven	Winter Haven, FL
Connor Kempe	Benjamin	North Palm Beach, FL
Luther Leonard	Evergreen	Vancouver, WA
Randall Mackey	Bastrop	Bastrop, LA
Drew McAllister	Monte Vista	Danville, CA
Reid McCollum	Summerville	Summerville, SC
Jack Ramsey	Simeon	Chicago, IL
Demetrius Richardson	Cherokee	Marlton, NJ
Nathan Stanley	Sequoyah	Tahlequah, OK
Tino Sunseri	Central Catholic	Pittsburgh, PA
Jeff Tomasetti	Brandywine	Wilmington, DE
Casey Turner	Great Bridge	Chesapeake, VA
Tyler Wilson	Greenwood	Greenwood, AR
Jim Youngblood	Fairview	Camden, AR

RUNNING BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Jahleel Addae	Riverview	Tampa, FL
Chris Anderson	Hollywood Hills	Hollywood Hills, FL
Darius Ashley	St. Xavier	Cincinnati, OH
Antwon Bailey	St. John's College	Washington, DC
Ryan Bass	Centennial	Corona, CA
Demetrius Bronson	Kentwood	Kent, WA
De'Anthony Curtis	Fairview	Camden, AR
Alex Daniels	Roswell	Roswell, GA
Brandon Davis	Peachtree Ridge	Suwanee, GA
Kenneth Davis	Tupelo	Tupelo, MS
Aundre Dean	Katy	Katy, TX
British Footman	Godby	Tallahassee, FL
Jason Ford	Althoff	Belleville, IL
Cyrus Gray	DeSoto	DeSoto, TX
Jonas Gray	Detroit Country Day	Beverly Hills, MI
Josh Haden	Friendly	Fort Washington, MD
Brynn Harvey	Largo	Largo, FL
Jeremy Hills	Elsik	Alief, TX
Delano Howell	Hart	Newhall, CA
Reggie Hunt	Daphne	Daphne, AL
Brock Jackolski	William Floyd	Mastic Beach, NY
Dontavius Jackson	Heard County	Franklin, GA
Harrison Jeffers	Eisenhower	Lawton, OK
Matt Jeimini	Clovis West	Fresno, CA
Dennis Johnson	Texarkana	Texarkana, AR
Jerry Kelly	Fairmont Senior	Fairmont, WV
Aaron King	Carmel	Carmel, IN
Mikel LeShoure	Centennial	Champaign, IL
Torrey Mack	Stratford	Stratford, CT
Onterrio McCalebb	Fort Meade	Fort Meade, FL
Sam McGuffie	Cypress Fairbanks	Cypress, TX
Curtis McNeal	Venice	Venice, CA
Latavius Murray	Onondaga Central	Nedrow, NY
Tre Newton	Carroll	Southlake, TX
Ray Polk	Brophy Prep	Phoenix, AZ
Justin Rogers	Vestavia Hills	Vestavia Hills, AL
Richard Samuel	Cass	Cartersville, GA
Bryan Schroeder	North Harrison	Ramsey, IN
Eric Smith	Armwood	Seffner, FL
Devin Thomas	Madison	San Antonio, TX
Lamaar Thomas	Friendly	Fort Washington, MD
Sal Viscount	Salesianum	Wilmington, DE
Martin Ward	Mt. Zion	Jonesboro, GA
Richard Watson	FAMU	Tallahassee, FL
Rashad White	Teaneck	Teaneck, NJ
Darius Willis	Franklin Central	Indianapolis, IN
Greg Wanamaker	Camden Catholic	Cherry Hill, NJ
William Washington	Holy Spirit	Absecon, NJ
Marsellius Williams	Grant	Sacramento, CA

UTILITY PLAYERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Darvin Adams	Harrison	Kennesaw, GA
A.J. Alexander	Altoona	Altoona, PA
Darius Barksdale	South Panola	Batesville, MS
Salvador Battles	East	Youngstown, OH
Louis Bland	Central Catholic	Modesto, CA
John Cole	Somerset	Somerset, KY
D.J. Coles	Goochland	Goochland, VA
Averlin Collier	Churchville-Chili	Churchville, NY
Terrance Dailey	Vacaville	Vacaville, CA
Pierre Desir	Francis Howell	St. Charles, MO
Rashun Dixon	Terry	Terry, MS
Logan Dold	Garden Plain	Garden Plain, KS
Will Fleming	Hoban	Akron, OH
Justin Johnson	Gilmer	Gilmer, TX
Chris Jordan	Brentwood Academy	Brentwood, TN
Kevin Koger	Whitmer	Toledo, OH
T.J. Lawrence	Kathleen	Lakeland, FL
Derek Mayo	Kecoughtan	Hampton, VA
Tony Morgan	Garner	Garner, NC
Isaiah Pead	Eastmoor Academy	Columbus, OH
Kendrick Presley	Kosciusko	Kosciusko, MS
Gerell Robinson	Hamilton	Chandler, AZ
Cameron Saddler	Gateway	Monroeville, PA
Burton Scott	Vigor	Prichard, AL
Cordale Scott	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Brandon Smith	New Brunswick	New Brunswick, NJ
Kye Staley	Guthrie	Guthrie, OK
Ryan Williams	Stonewall Jackson	Manassas, VA

WIDE RECEIVERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Jonathan Baldwin	Aliquippa	Aliquippa, PA
Kemonte Bateman	Crenshaw	Los Angeles, CA
Kerry Boykins	Oscar Smith	Chesapeake, VA
DeAndre Brown	Ocean Springs	Ocean Springs, MS
Cody Bruns	Prosser	Prosser, WA
Bakari Bussey	Lakota West	West Chester, OH
Brice Butler	Norcross	Norcross, GA
Laron Byrd	Hahnville	Hahnville, LA
Greg Childs	Warren	Warren, AR
Khiry Cooper	Calvary Baptist	Shreveport, LA
Kevin Dorsey	Forestville	Forestville, MD
John Goodman	Dwenger	Fort Wayne, IN
DeSean Hales	Klein Oak	Klein, TX
Omarius Hines	Corsicana	Corsicana, TX
Cameron Johnson	Gonzaga College	Washington, DC
Corey Johnson	Muskegon	Muskegon, MI
Marquan Jones	Blythewood	Blythewood, SC
Marvin Jones	Etiwanda	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Wes Kemp	DeSmet Jesuit	St. Louis, MO
Tavarres King	Habersham Central	Mt. Airy, GA
Chase Majia	Northwest	Shawnee Mission, KS
Dejuan Miller	Metuchen	Metuchen, NJ
Jameel Owens	Muskogee	Muskogee, OK
DeVier Posey	LaSalle	Cincinnati, OH
Melvin Ray	Chiles	Tallahassee, FL
Nelson Rosario	El Camino	Oceanside, CA
Marcus Sales	Christian Brothers	Syracuse, NY
Raevon Samuels	Canyon Springs	Las Vegas, NV
Supo Sanni	Homewood-Floosmoor	Floosmoor, IL
D.J. Shoemate	Servite	Anaheim, CA
Kenny Stafford	DeSales	Columbus, OH
Darryl Stonum	Fort Bend Dulles	Sugar Land, TX
Chris Tolliver	Rayville	Rayville, LA
James Wade	Pioneer	Ann Arbor, MI
Deion Walker	Christchurch	Christchurch, VA
Rodriguez Wilks	Smyrna	Smyrna, TN
Cruz Williams	Pulaski Academy	Little Rock, AR
Justin Wilson	Windsor	Windsor, CT
Jarious Wright	Warren	Warren, AR

TIGHT ENDS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Dwayne Allen	Terry Sanford	Fayetteville, NC
Matt Branch	Sterlington	Sterlington, LA
Kavon Brown	Brandywine	Wilmington, DE
Chase Clement	E.D. White	Thibodaux, LA
Nic DiLillo	Madison	Mansfield, OH
Tyler Edwards	Quachita	Monroe, LA
Christian Fauria	Crespi	Encino, CA
Andrew Jones	Smithville	Smithville, MO
Dion Jordan	Chandler	Chandler, AZ
Justin Maneri	Saddle Brook	Saddle Brook, NJ
Brandon Moore	Trotwood-Madison	Trotwood, OH
Bo Relliford	Chaminade-Madonna	Hollywood, FL
Warren Reuland	Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo, CA
Kyle Rudolph	Elder	Cincinnati, OH
Jake Stoneburner	Coffman	Dublin, OH
Quintin Williams	Central Catholic	Pittsburgh, PA

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Mario Benavides	Los Fresnos	Los Fresnos, TX
James Bennett	West Potomac	Alexandria, VA
John Michael Boswell	Tuscaloosa County	Northport, AL
Daniel Campbell	Aldine	Aldine, TX
James Carmon	City College	Baltimore, MD
Allen Carroll	McClymonds	Oakland, CA
Marc Damisch	Buffalo Grove	Buffalo Grove, IL
Ryan Dannewitz	San Jacinto	San Jacinto, CA
Tony Dizkowski	DeMatha	Hyattsville, MD
Derrell Dorsey	Dunbar	Washington, DC
Vaughn Dotsy	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA
Art Forst	Manasquan	Manasquan, NJ
A.J. Francis	Gonzaga College	Washington, DC
Dalton Freeman	Pelion	Pelion, SC
Bryce Givens	Mullen	Denver, CO
Gordy Glenn	Riverdale	Riverdale, GA
Emedin Gojcik	Englewood	Jacksonville, FL
Mike Golic Jr.	Northwest Catholic	West Hartford, CT
Ben Habern	Liberty Christian	Denton, TX
Dan Hoch	Harlan	Harlan, IA
Khaled Holmes	Mater Dei	Santa Ana, CA
Barrett Jones	Evangelical Christian	Memphis, TN
Peter Konz	Neenah	Neenah, WI
Nick Lepak	Auburn	Auburn, NY
Kyle Long	St. Anne's-Belfield	Charlottesville, VA
Joseph Looney	Lake Worth	Lake Worth, FL
Tyler Love	Mountain Brook	Mountain Brook, AL
Elliott Mealer	Wauseon	Wauseon, OH
Alex Misialek	South	Crystal Lake, IL
Lucas Nix	Thomas Jefferson	Pittsburgh, PA
Dann O'Neill	Grand Haven	Grand Haven, MI
Kenneth Page	A.C. Flora	Columbia, SC
Vinston Painter	Maury	Norfolk, VA
Logan Pegram	Silver Lake	Silver Lake, KS
Graham Pocic	Lemont	Lemont, IL
Tyler Rigsby	Pleasant Valley	Chico, CA
Sam Robey	Trinity	Louisville, KY
Trevor Robinson	Elkhorn	Elkhorn, NE
Zebrie Sanders	Northmont	Clayton, OH
Rhonne Sanderson	Plant	Tampa, FL
Zach Schlink	Centennial	Peoria, AZ
D.J. Sellman	DeMatha	Hyattsville, MD
Gregory Shaw	Pace	Miami, FL
David Snow	Gilmer	Gilmer, TX
Dallas Thomas	Istrouma	Baton Rouge, LA
Max Tuioti-Mariner	Corona	Corona, CA
Brandon Washington	Edison	Miami, FL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Chancey Aghayere	Garland	Garland, TX
Lavunce Askew	Fairview	Camden, AR
Chris Bennett	Gilman School	Baltimore, MD
Corey Boatman	Good Counsel	Wheaton, MD
DaQuan Bowers	Bamberg-Ehrhardt	Bamberg, SC
Courtney Campbell	Fairfax	Los Angeles, CA
Jurrell Casey	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Adam Coleman	Bettendorf	Bettendorf, IA
Haku Corea	Damien	Honolulu, HI
Sean Cwynar	Marian Central	Woodstock, IL
Teddy Dargan	Milford Mill	Baltimore, MD
Reggie Ellis	Dunbar	Washington, DC
James Ferentz	Iowa City	Iowa City, IA

OTHER PREP SENIORS TO WATCH

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Darius Fleming	St. Rita	Chicago, IL
Marcus Forston	Northwestern	Miami, FL
Tony Gillespie	Jenks	Jenks, OK
Lawrence Guy	Western	Las Vegas, NV
Glenn Harbin	McGill-Toolen	Mobile, AL
Logan Harrell	Santa Margarita	Rancho Santa Mar., CA
Dexter Heyman	Male	Louisville, KY
Anthony Hills	Pensacola	Pensacola, FL
Tyler Hoover	Novi	Novi, MI
Wes Horton	Notre Dame	Sherman Oaks, CA
Byron Hout	Lake City	Lake City, ID
Delvin Hughes	Clewiston	Clewiston, FL
Jarvis Humphrey	Cedar Hill	Cedar Hill, TX
Omar Hunter	Buford	Buford, GA
Malik Jackson	Birmingham	Lake Balboa, CA
Toby Jackson	Griffin	Griffin, GA
Jamaar Jarrett	Mission Hills	San Marcos, CA
Tony Jerod	DeSoto	DeSoto, TX
Masengo Kabongo	College Prep	Fairfield, CT
Solomon Koehler	Castle	Kaneohe, HI
David Kruger	Timpanogos	Orem, UT
Nathan Lewis	Hahnville	Boutte, LA
Kapron Lewis-Moore	Weatherford	Weatherford, TX
Corey Liujet	Hialeah	Hialeah, FL
Leon Mackey	Christiana	Newark, DE
Chris Martin	Choctawhatchee	Ft. Walton Beach, FL
Stacey McGee	Muskogee	Muskogee, OK
Willie Mobley	Eden Prairie	Eden Prairie, MN
Brandon Newman	Pleasure Ridge Park	Louisville, KY
Dontari Poe	Wooddale	Memphis, TN
Riley Reiff	Parkston	Parkston, SD
Micanor Regis	Pahokee	Pahokee, FL
Joel Ross	Vandebilt Catholic	Houma, LA
Shawntel Rowell	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Damian Square	Yates	Houston, TX
Hamani Stevens	Hemet	Hemet, CA
Bo Tillman	Franklin County	Meadville, MS
Everette Thompson	Kennedy	Burien, WA
DeAngelo Tyson	Statesboro	Statesboro, GA
Dave Ulinski	DuPont Manual	Louisville, KY
Hafis Williams	Elizabeth	Elizabeth, NJ
Nathan Williams	Miami Trace	Washington C.H., OH
Brandon Young	DuPont Manual	Louisville, KY

LINEBACKERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Doug Alston	Paterson Catholic	Paterson, NJ
Brady Amack	De La Salle	Concord, CA
Willie Argo	Assumption	Davenport, IA
Brandon Beachum	Cardinal Mooney	Youngstown, OH
Ramon Buchanan	Palm Bay	Melbourne, FL
Nigel Carr	First Coast	Jacksonville, FL
Craig Chopko	Lakeland	Jermyn, PA
Zander Fabbri	Centennial	Bakersfield, CA
J.B. Fitzgerald	West Windsor Plainsboro	Princeton Junction, NJ
Jordan Futch	Chaminade-Madonna	Hollywood, FL
Lydell Gibson	Salem	Virginia Beach, VA
Shayne Hale	Gateway	Monroeville, PA
Jerrell Harris	Gadsden City	Gadsden, AL
Dravannti Johnson	Nederland	Nederland, TX
Brandan Kelly	Wading River	Shoreham, NY
Jon Major	Ponderosa	Parker, CO
Terrell Manning	Scotland County	Laurinburg, NC
Sam Marish	Champlin Park	Champlin, MN
Lerentee McCray	Dunnellon	Dunnellton, FL
Anthony McDonald	Notre Dame	Sherman Oaks, CA
Pat Michael	Fairview	Fairview, PA
Ebele Okakou	Roswell	Roswell, GA
Nate Palmer	Simeon	Chicago, IL
David Posluszny	Hopewell	Aliquippa, PA
Adrian Robinson	Harrisburg	Harrisburg, PA
Brad Roussel	Redemptorist	Baton Rouge, LA
Maurice Simmons	Dominguez	Compton, CA
Sean Spence	Northwestern	Miami, FL
Justin Staples	St. Edward	Lakewood, OH
Andrew Sweat	Trinity	Washington, PA
Steven Sylvester	Union Grove	McDonough, GA
Bruce Taylor	Myrtle Beach	Myrtle Beach, SC
Jacoby Thomas	Murphy	Mobile, AL
Marion Walls	Wooddale	Memphis, TN
Jahmir Williams	Trotwood-Madison	Trotwood, OH
Vincent Williams	Ridge	Davenport, FL
Christian Wilson	Montour	McKees Rocks, PA
Marcus Witherspoon	Holy Spirit	Absecon, NJ

DEFENSIVE BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Johnny Adams	Buchtel	Akron, OH
Marquel Ali	Woodrow Wilson	Beckley, WV
Jerrell Barbour	Centennial	Peoria, AZ
Robert Blanton	Butler	Charlotte, NC
Beau Boudreaux	Shaw	Marrerro, LA
John Boyette	Napa	Napa, CA
Nolan Brewster	Mullen	Denver, CO
Anthony Brown	Terry	Rosenberg, TX
James Calhoun	J.W. North	Riverside, CA
Danny Cannon	Riordan	San Francisco, CA
Mike Comasco	Bishop McDevitt	Harrisburg, PA
Keanon Cooper	Skyline	Dallas, TX
Olivo Correia	Brockton	Brockton, MA
Fred Craig	St. Xavier	Cincinnati, OH
Jordan Fields	Paris	Paris, TX
Dee Finley	Auburn	Auburn, AL
Keon Furtch	Paris	Paris, TX
Robert Golden	Edison	Fresno, CA
Jeron Gouveia	Stone Bridge	Ashburn, VA
A.J. Grant	Sandalwood	Jacksonville, FL
Brandon Harris	B.T. Washington	Miami, FL
Jarred Holley	Easton	Easton, PA
Janoris Jenkins	Pahokee	Pahokee, FL
Patrick Johnson	Blanche Ely	Pompano Beach, FL
Victor Johnson	Waco	Waco, TX
Josh Jordan	Bishop Gorman	Las Vegas, NV
Raphiel Lambert	Jesuit	Portland, OR
Brandon Leslie	Edison	Fresno, CA
Dan McCarthy	Cardinal Mooney	Youngstown, OH
D.J. Monroe	Angleton	Angleton, TX
Nick Moody	Roman Catholic	Philadelphia, PA
Aaron Nichols	Central	Little Rock, AR
Terrance Parks	Creekside	Fairburn, GA
P.J. Smith	John Curtis	River Ridge, LA
Tiuke Tuipulotu	Serra	San Mateo, CA
Prentiss Waggner	Clinton	Clinton, LA
Aaron Williams	McNeil	Round Rock, TX
Bryan Winklepleck	Owensboro Catholic	Owensboro, KY
E.J. Woods	Crespi	Encino, CA

KICKERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
David Behr	Summerville	Summerville, SC
Maikon Bonani	Lake Wales	Lake Wales, FL
Randy Bullock	Klein	Klein, TX
Stephen Flaherty	St. Rita	Chicago, IL
Alan Gendreau	Orangwood Christian	Maitland, FL
Travis Golla	County Day	La Jolla, CA
Geoff Greco	North Allegheny	Wexford, PA
Kyle Hughlock	Upland	Upland, CA
Michael Kitchens	Sparkman	Harvest, AL
Tommy McNutt	Mayfield	Mayfield, KY
Jordan Minnisto	Westlake	Westlake Village, CA
Jason Nicholson	Paul Dunbar	Lexington, KY
Ben Parks	Argyle	Argyle, TX
Nick Riggall	Wilmington	Wilmington, PA
Alex Smith	Lake Brantley	Altamonte Springs,FL
Corey Smith	Musselman	Inwood, WV
David Soldner	Mainheim Township	Lancaster, PA
Tyler Warner	Parkersburg	Parkersburg, WV

50 JUNIORS TO WATCH

ALABAMA
Alex Buford, DB, Thomasville
Andre Shields, RB, Hoover

ARIZONA
Shane McCullen, RB, Apache Junction

ARKANSAS
DeShawn Bagby, RB, Mayflower

CALIFORNIA
Matt Barkley, QB, Santa Ana Mater Dei
Travis Brown, LB, Fresno Clovis West
Jabari Carr, DB, San Jose Oak Grove
Rashaad Reynolds, QB/RB, San Fernando
Marquise Simmons, LB, Compton Dominguez
Brett Thompson, WR, El Dorado Hills Oak Ridge
Cierre Wood, WR/DB, Oxnard Santa Clara

FLORIDA
Matt Coffee, LB, Fort Walton Beach
Michael Gillislee, RB, DeLand
Brandon Jenkins, DL, Tallahassee Florida HS
Jairus Jones, DB, Tampa Wharton
Jacobbi McDaniel, OL, Madison Madison County
Petey Smith, LB, Seffner Armwood
Jordan Weingart, OL, Gainesville Buchholz

GEORGIA
Jerico Brown, DL, Augusta Glenn Hills
Greg Reid, DB, Valdosta Lowndes

ILLINOIS
Charlie Goro, QB, Park Ridge Maine South

INDIANA
Zak Martin, OL, Indianapolis Chatard

KANSAS
Bryce Brown, LB, Wichita East

LOUISIANA
Patrick Lewis, OL, Reserve East St. John
Cerderrick Tyson, RB, Shreveport Evangel Christian

MARYLAND
Tavon Austin, RB/DB, Baltimore Dunbar

MINNESOTA
A.J. Barker, WR, St. Paul Academy

MISSOURI
Ronnie Wingo, RB, St. Louis University

NEW YORK
Curtis Dukes, RB, Philadelphia Indian River
Troy Walker, WR, Long Island City

NORTH CAROLINA
Devonte Holloman, DB, Charlotte Independence

OHIO
Nate Cadogan, DE, Portsmouth
Chris Fields, DB/WR, Painesville Harvey
Ricky Harris, OL, Westerville South
Storm Klein, RB, Newark Licking Valley
Daryl Mason, WR/DB, Youngstown Ursuline
Justin Turner, ATH, Massillon Washington

PENNSYLVANIA
Tony Cascio, OL, Montoursville
Daniel Fisher, PK, Harrisburg Central Dauphin
Todd Thomas, DB, Beaver Falls
Jeremiah Young, RB, Steelton Steelton-Highspire

TEXAS
Thomas Ashcraft, OL, Cedar Hill
Mike Brockers, DL, Houston Milby
Michael Brown, OL, Lexington
Marvin Foster, DL, Fort Worth North Crowley
Jacob Karam, QB, Friendswood
Jazzman Mitchell, RB, Tyler Lee
Dontrayevous Robinson, ATH, Euless Trinity

VIRGINIA
Adam Morgan, QB, Dinwiddie
Deantwan Williams, RB, Woodbridge

25 PREP TEAMS TO WATCH

(teams listed alphabetically by states)

BY DOUG HUFF

PRATTVILLE ▸ AL (15-0 in '06)

The defending Class 6A state champion Lions return 11 starters, including five on offense, in a bid for a repeat crown. A big change on the offense this season is the move of two-year standout wide receiver Dekendrick Moncrief (6-0, 175 pounds) to quarterback, replacing graduated state Player of the Year Larry Smith. Returning in the backfield is Justin Albert (5-9, 180), who scored three touchdowns in the title game win over four-year champion Hoover. Moncrief will have three key targets in wide receivers Lewis Haley (5-10, 180), Emanuel Davis (6-3, 185) and Dekendrick's junior brother, Quaylon (6-0, 175). Anchoring the offensive line is Chance Guyon (6-1, 270). The veteran defenders include backs Marlow Marshall (6-2, 185) and Reggie Dozier (5-9, 170); linebackers Terrance Williams (6-2, 190), Terrell Jackson (6-1, 205) and junior Lalo Albright (6-0, 200); and linemen Greg Mitchell (6-1, 290), Hayden Findlay (5-11, 190) and Jarvis Nixon (5-11, 270), who was injured last season. Prattville opens the season with the Kickoff Classic contest against North Gwinnett (Ga.).

CENTENNIAL ▸ PEORIA, AZ (14-0)

The Coyotes have 29 lettermen, including 10 starters, back from a dominating Class 5A-II state championship team. Quarterback Scott Burgett (6-2, 210) runs the offense after passing for 1,900 yards and 27 touchdowns last season. Touted All-State linemen Zach Schlink (6-4, 290) and Cory Woolery (6-4, 280) are the key blockers. Two-way player Jeff Hughes (5-11, 190), an All-State cornerback, also rushed for 1,500 yards and 26 scores. Other veteran skill players include a pair of two-way backs in Jerrell Barbour (6-1, 190) and junior John Hughes (5-9, 185). Linebacker Adam Shipley (6-0, 205) also returns.

DE LA SALLE ▸ CONCORD, CA (13-1)

The Spartans have 11 veterans returning from last season's Division I state runner-up. Mike MacGillvray (5-11, 175) is back at quarterback and should have help in the backfield from two-way backs Kaylan Butler (5-9, 190) and Tito Pica (5-9, 190), who is also a touted wrestler. Other veterans include linebacker Brady Amack (6-1, 235); tight end/defensive end Xavier Vigney (6-6, 260); cornerback/wide receiver Graylon Sanders (5-11, 177); and wide receiver/kicker Michael Cycz (5-9, 155). Veteran linemen on hand are Jordan Bouey (6-1, 265), Donald Walter (6-0, 230), Andrew Garaventa (5-11, 240) and Dimitri Mastorakas (5-10, 200).

POLY ▸ LONG BEACH, CA (11-2)

The Jackrabbits return an experienced team and should be in the hunt for state honors in 2007. With eight offensive and seven defensive regulars back from last season, Poly will travel outside the state to tackle Ohio power Cleveland Glenville. Key veterans include two-way lineman Jurrell Casey (6-1, 260); safety/wide receiver Vaughn Telemaque (6-3, 190); wide receiver Randall Cox (5-9, 170); and offensive linemen Marcus Falanai (6-2, 320) and Douglas Spacht (6-3, 285). Vying for the quarterback position will be senior Morgan Fennell (6-2, 180) and promising sophomore Chris Leachman (6-3, 180).

ST. BONAVENTURE ▸ VENTURA, CA (10-2)

The Seraphs' veteran roster was bolstered when *CalHiSports.com* State Junior Player of the Year and *Street & Smith's* preseason All-America running back Darrell Scott (6-1, 215) transferred from Moorpark. Scott rushed for 3,194 yards and 45 touchdowns last season. He joins seven returning offensive starters, along with seven defensive veterans. Scott will run behind a strong offensive line featuring Vaughn Dotsy (6-4, 365), Andrew Sims (6-4, 260), B.J. Avila (6-0, 260) and center Chris Perham (6-0, 240). Also back is wide receiver/defensive back K.C. Serna (5-10, 175), junior quarterback Tony Macarena (5-10, 205) and running back/safety Patrick Hall (6-0, 195). The defense is anchored by touted middle linebacker Ryan Panapa (6-2, 255) along with linebacker Loren Powers (6-3, 212), end Ryan Medina (6-3, 250), nose guard Elliott Moon (5-10, 260), junior tackle James Emma (6-0, 230), senior tackle Christian Mohan (6-3, 335) and backs Chad Kurz (6-3, 190) and J.B. Dock (5-11, 165).

NORTHWESTERN ▸ MIAMI, FL (15-0)

The defending Class 6A state champion returns 12 starters—six on each side of the ball. The Bulls could make a run at a national title this season, which includes an early-season showdown in Texas against three-time defending Class 5A-I champion Southlake Carroll. Key returnees include preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America wide receiver Aldarius Johnson (6-3, 195); quarterback Jacoby Harris (6-3, 185); defensive lineman Marcus Forston (6-2, 290); linebacker Sean Spence (6-0, 195); wide receiver Tommy Streeter (6-4, 195); offensive linemen Vincent Marshall (6-4, 270) and Terrell Killings (6-3, 285); and defensive lineman Benjamin Jones (6-4, 275). Harris passed for 2,920 yards and 37 touchdowns last season, with Johnson catching 19 of his throws for scores and Streeter landing 14.

PAHOKEE ▸ FL (14-0)

The Blue Devils are coming off their third Class 2A state title in the last four years and return several key players including preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America wide receiver Martavious Odoms (5-8, 170) and quarterback Anthony Sheppard (6-3, 180). Sheppard threw for 2,067 yards and 31 touchdowns, including connecting on 14 with Odoms, in 2006. Two-way lineman Micanor Regis (6-3, 295), who had 11 sacks last season, anchors the defense. Also returning are defensive back Janoris Jenkins (5-11, 175) and linebacker Artis Evans (6-0, 195).

NORTHSIDE ▸ WARNER ROBINS, GA (15-0)

The defending Class 4A state champion Eagles are well-fortified for another title run in 2007. Leading the way is quarterback Marques Ivory (6-1, 235), Georgia's 4A Offensive Player of the Year and one of 14 starters returning. Ivory is joined in the backfield by top rusher Tijuan Green (6-2, 195), with All-State lineman Jerome Bibbins (6-3, 295) up front. Other returnees include

wide receivers Nick Bass (5-11, 190) and Kevin Cooper (6-2, 185), lineman Vashaun Oats (6-2, 265) and center Jordan Dooley (6-0, 245). Defensive veterans include end Anthony Taylor (6-2, 205) and four key juniors in lineman Abry Jones (6-4, 245), linebacker Eric Fields (6-2, 208) and backs K.J. Martin (5-11, 65) and Randall McBride (5-10, 175).

ROSWELL ▸ GA (13-1-1)

After tying for last season's Class 5A state title (14-14 against Peachtree Ridge) with an underclassmen-led team, the Hornets are poised for another run at the crown. With eight starters on each side of the ball returning, Roswell will be the preseason team to beat. All-State quarterback Dustin Taliaferro (6-3, 200) runs the offense after passing for 2,048 yards and 17 touchdowns last year. Touted running back Alex Daniel (5-11, 200) is coming off a 1,800-yard rushing season. Last year's top pass catcher, P.J. Beidel (6-0, 180), and Garrett Embry (6-3, 210) return, as do linemen Brandon Reynolds (6-1, 280), Scott Lippencott (5-11, 240) and Matt Haney (6-0, 240). Touted linebackers Bele Okakpu (6-2, 210) and Zach Waddell (6-1, 225) anchor the defense, which includes end Curtis Hazelton (6-3, 235), tackle Braydon Knudson (5-9, 240) and backs Embry, Beidel, Dominique Wheeler (5-9, 165) and junior Ben Allen (5-9, 175). Placekicker/punter Jim Broadway is a deadly special-teams threat.

ST. RITA ▸ CHICAGO, IL (13-1)

The Mustangs have 10 senior starters back from a Class 7A state championship squad. Jason Kafka (6-3, 195) will take over the quarterback role after playing wide receiver as a junior last season. Other offensive veterans include tight end Drew McGowan (6-5, 245) and three linemen in Kevin Galeher (6-4, 310), Dan Smith (6-3, 285) and Luke Knibbs (6-2, 265). The defense is anchored by end Darius Fleming (6-3, 245), a Notre Dame recruit, along with linebackers Kenny Stoklosa (6-1, 235) and Brian Popek (6-1, 205) and cornerback Deonte Hood (5-9, 170). Kicker Steve Flaherty (5-11, 170) also returns.

JOHN CURTIS ▸ RIVER RIDGE, LA (14-0)

The Patriots continue to be the team to beat in Louisiana. With 21 state titles—including the last three in Class 2A and nine in the last 11 years—they reload for another run in Coach J.T. Curtis' 37th year with the program. Ten starters return, including Matt Saucier (6-0, 180), who shared snaps at quarterback last season. A trio of wide receivers returns: Wayne Poole (5-9, 170), Vincent Allen (5-8, 160) and P.J. Smith (6-4, 190). Bryan Munch (6-0, 265) is a third-year starter at center, while tackle Ray Grubbs (6-4, 295) also has experience. On defense, the secondary is solid with Smith and Robby Green (6-1, 175), plus Alex Lauricella and Conner Mullins. Linemen include Chris Nickolson (6-3, 265) and junior Mike Henry (6-5, 265). Kenny Cain, a running back/linebacker, will also contribute.

DEMATHA ▸ HYATTSVILLE, MD (12-0)

The Stags return 15 starters from a team that won its fourth straight D.C.-area Catholic championship. The most touted veteran is preseason *Street & Smith's* Top 50 athlete Kenny Tate (6-3, 215) a running back/wide receiver/defensive back who also starts on DeMatha's nationally ranked basketball team. Other veterans include 1,000-yard rusher Ashby Christian (5-11, 205); fullback/linebacker Ryan Clarke (6-1, 230); tight end Joe Collura (6-3, 250); center Rob McDowell (6-3, 275); and tackles D.J. Sellman (6-4, 320) and Tony Dreinski (6-4, 320). At quarterback, it will be junior Tommy Chroniger (6-1, 205), who started at safety last year. Other veterans are linebacker Anthony Listordi (6-0, 225) and defensive tackle Nick Rivers (6-1, 260), both third-year starters, plus safety/wide receiver Jonathan Mason (6-1, 205) and linemen Rion Robinson (5-11, 265) and junior Calvin McDowney (6-3, 325).

MUSKEGON ▸ MI (14-0)

The Big Reds will be seeking their third Division 2 state title in the last four years with 11 starters, including six third-year regulars, on hand. Quarterback Chris Crawford (6-0, 170) will run the offense for a third straight season and had 365 total yards, including 228 rushing and two touchdowns, in 2006's title game. Running back Bobby Miller (5-10, 180) and wide receiver Cory Johnson (6-0, 180) are other offensive threats. All-State pick Carlin Landingham (6-4, 285) anchors the line along with Mac Parker (6-2, 260). The defense includes ends Ricky Crosby (6-2, 235) and DeMarrrio Wyrick (6-4, 240), plus linebackers David Spears (5-10, 215) and junior Jason Hannett (5-9, 185). Jarvis McKinley (6-1, 180) and Miller return at cornerback.

SOUTH PANOLA ▸ BATESVILLE, MS (15-0)

The Tigers enter the season with a state-record winning streak of 60 games after capturing their fourth consecutive Class 5A state championship last year. Coach Ricky Woods, the 2005 *Student Sports* magazine National Coach of the Year, is gone, taking the same post at Bainbridge (Ga.) High. In steps Lance Pogue, the former coach at Eupora. He inherits a team with 14 returning regulars, including highly recruited two-way back Darius Barksdale (5-11, 190). The All-State defensive back also rushed for 1,042 yards and nine touchdowns in 2006. All-State selection Cameron Wagner (5-10, 290) anchors the offensive line.

ST.PETER'S PREP ▸ JERSEY CITY, NJ (11-1)

Quarterback Will Hill, a preseason *Street & Smith's* All-American, returns for his senior season along with several other veteran players. The massive offensive line includes Khalil Wilkes (6-3, 290), Shawn Pearson (6-5, 275), Ed Rodger (6-3, 250), Dan Alfieri (6-0, 260) and J.J. Milne (5-10, 260). At running back are Nyshier Oliver, Greg Kohles, Ken Smith and Bill Roman. Hill, who accounted for 3,810 total yards and 47 touchdowns last season, will pass to Mike Nadolny, Joe Holder, Andrew Collucci and Joe Hussey. Besides Hill, who is also a safety, key defenders include nose guard Darryl Greene (6-1, 310), end Anthony Blake (6-1, 245) and cornerbacks Eric Cirino and Charles Gregory.

INDEPENDENCE ▸ CHARLOTTE, NC (16-0)

The beat goes on for the Patriots, who enter the season with a 108-game winning streak and will be seeking their eighth straight Class 4AA state title. With 10 starters returning, the talent pool was improved by the addition of two talented transfers in senior running back Rod Chisholm (5-9, 185) and sophomore quarterback Anthony Carrothers (5-7, 165). They join tight end Mario Carter (6-4, 235), a North Carolina State recruit; wide receiver Javon Rembert (5-8, 180); and linemen Erik Thompson (6-4, 275) and Shannon Andrews (6-2, 275) on offense. Defensively, touted Devonte Holloman (6-2, 215) and Makiri Pugh (5-11, 180) return to the secondary, and ends Freddie Mungo (6-1, 210) and Jordan Woods (6-4, 220) are also back. Lineman Lawrence Williams (6-0, 315) and junior linebacker Dominique Walker (5-9, 180) are other veterans. Junior placekicker Robby Ward also returns.

CARDINAL MOONEY ▸ YOUNGSTOWN, OH (14-0)

The Cardinals retain most of their key players from last year's Ohio Division IV championship team, which some observers believed was as good as any in the state. All-State quarterback/safety Dan McCarthy (6-1, 190), a highly recruited two-way player, rushed for 1,921 yards and 21 touchdowns and passed for 780 yards and eight more scores last season. Other major contributors include running back/linebacker Brandon Beachum (6-1, 220), linebacker/defensive end

Taylor Hill (6-2, 215), linebacker Michael Zordich (6-1, 210), offensive lineman Jarod Emerson (6-6, 275) and junior two-way lineman John Simon (6-2, 250).

ST. XAVIER ▸ CINCINNATI, OH (11-2)

The Bombers are well-stocked with experience and talent to make another run for a Division I state title. Eight starters on each side of the ball return from last season's regional final team that took national No. 1 Lakeland (Fla.) into overtime. The entire offensive backfield is intact, including All-Ohio tailback Darius Ashley (5-9, 190); quarterback Jon Hurley (6-2, 195); fullback Luca Romeo (6-1, 215); and Patrick Berning (5-10, 180). Danny Milligan, a receiver/kicker/punter returner, is also back, as well as wide receivers Jon Scheidler (6-2, 185) and Stephon Ball (6-4, 215). The veteran linemen are Andrew Carpenter (6-3, 285) and Max Bauman (6-2, 270). All-State cornerback Fred Craig (6-2, 210) and linebacker Nick Schneider (6-3, 230) lead the defense. Others returning are linebacker Evan Miller (6-0, 195); ends Joe Langen (6-2, 235) and Patrick Muldoon (6-3, 245); nose guard Joe Richter (6-2, 230); and backs Ross Morand (6-1, 175), Gerry Reilly (6-1, 175) and Tim Bayer (6-1, 180).

JENKS ▸ OK (13-1)

The defending Class 6A state champion Trojans will be seeking their ninth state title in the last 12 years with an experienced team that includes nine offensive starters and four on defense. Quarterback Mark Ginther (6-2, 175) runs the attack, which features wide receiver Dallas Beeler (6-4, 185) and running back Chris Adkins (5-9, 195). Two-way lineman Cory Dorris (6-3, 265) and defensive lineman Tony Gillespie (6-1, 310) anchor the fronts. Other experienced offensive linemen include Kris VanBecelaere (5-10, 240) and juniors Jake Alexander (6-2, 260) and Brian Mincher (6-1, 250). Coach Allan Trimble has an 11-year record of 134-14.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC ▸ PITTSBURGH, PA (10-2)

The western Pennsylvania contender has 14 starters—seven on each side of the ball—returning for another run at a Class 4A state crown. The offense is run by Louisville recruit Tino Sunseri (6-1, 195) and experienced skill players such as fullback Dan Vaughan (6-3, 230); wide receivers Emmanuel Matthews (5-11, 170) and Casey Totten (6-0, 185); tight end Quintin Williams (6-3, 235); and sophomore running back Dom Timbers (5-10, 205). Key defenders will be Williams and Vaughan at ends, Jon Petrigac (6-1, 195) and Terrell Anderson (6-2, 205) at linebacker and Andrew Taglienetti (5-9, 175) at defensive back. A solid two-way lineman is Liam Krahe (6-2, 255).

SUMMERVILLE ▸ SC (12-1)

The nation's all-time winningest coach, John McKissick, has an experienced squad seeking an 11th state title in his 56th season at the helm. McKissick, with 543 wins, will build his team around preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America wide receiver A.J. Green (6-4, 185), a fourth-year starter and University of Georgia recruit who was the EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year, and quarterback Reid McCollum (6-3, 200). Green, also a safety, caught 60 passes for 1,203 yards and 14 touchdowns last season. McCollum passed for 2,787 yards and 25 scores. Other key contributors include fourth-year placekicker David Behr, who has a state-record 232 career kicking points, lineman Richard Spain and defensive back Davon Ellington.

MARYVILLE ▸ TN (15-0)

What can the Rebels do for an encore? With 12 starters—six on each side of the ball—returning, Maryville takes a 45-game winning streak into the season after capturing its third straight Class 4A state title and sixth in the last seven years. Coach George Quarles, with a 108-9 record in eight seasons, has preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America tight end Aaron Douglas (6-6, 245), a Tennessee recruit, back, as well as quarterback Brent Burnette (6-3, 215), wide receiver/safety Stephen Shiver (6-3, 205) and three offensive linemen in Caleb West (6-2, 225), Broughton Greene (6-0, 225) and Jeremy Sands (6-4, 270). A promising running back is junior Thomas Shular (5-11, 175). Defensive veterans include junior end Justin Smith (6-1, 230), tackles Todd Hollingsworth (6-1, 230) and junior Marcus Englehardt (6-0, 235), plus defensive backs Tyler Clendenin (5-10, 190) and Caleb Clement (5-10, 180).

CARROLL ▸ SOUTHLAKE, TX (16-0)

The Dragons enter the season in a familiar role as the team to beat in Texas, but with a new coach in former assistant Hal Wasson. Carroll, with a 48-game winning streak and three straight Class 5A-I state titles, could make a serious run at the No. 1 national ranking it held in 2004 and '05 before finishing No. 2 last season to Lakeland, Fla. Leading the way are two University of Texas recruits in quarterback Riley Dodge (6-0, 180) and running back Tre Newton (6-0, 185). Dodge, who is the son of former Carroll Coach Todd Dodge (now the University of North Texas coach), is a preseason *Street & Smith's* All-American.

Riley Dodge was named the 2006 EA Sports National Junior of the Year after recording 5,303 total yards and 67 touchdowns. Newton is the son of former Dallas Cowboys lineman Nate Newton, and Tre rushed for 2,010 yards and 20 scores last season. They are two of seven offensive starters returning to go along with three defensive regulars.

Other veterans include wide receivers Blake Cantu (6-1, 195) and Chris Brainard (6-0, 175); center Nick Leppo (6-3, 270); offensive linemen Jake Jackson (6-3, 275) and Sam Schwartzstein (6-3, 270); linebacker Derek Tomlin (6-0, 200); safety Luke Anderson (6-0, 180); and defensive linemen Jackson Beall and Blake Bridges. Carroll faces a major early-season test when Florida power Miami Northwestern visits for a televised intersectional contest.

KATY ▸ TX (13-1)

The Tigers return eight offensive and four defensive starters from a Class 5A-II regional final team. Running back Aundre Dean (6-1, 205) is a key offensive returnee after rushing for 2,111 yards and scoring 29 touchdowns last season. Quarterback Bo Mitchell (6-0, 180) runs the offense, which also includes fullback Luis Zavala (5-11, 195), tight end Markham Stayton (6-1, 215) and wide receivers Brian Rowe (6-0, 180) and Joey Fuda (6-0, 155). Veteran offensive linemen are Eric Ball (6-3, 270), James Lowrance (5-9, 235) and Nathan Bryan (6-0, 290). The defense features backs Trent Hunter (5-10, 190) and Terrance Henry (5-10, 170) and linebacker Brad Graham (6-0, 180). Others are to watch are defensive end Micah Marks (6-1, 250), defensive back Terrence Frederick (5-9, 150) and linebacker Blake Adler (5-9, 190).

PARKERSBURG ▸ WV (14-0)

The defending Class 3A state champion has 15 starters returning in search of the school's 11th title. Two-way lineman Josh Jenkins (6-5, 300), a West Virginia University recruit and preseason *Street & Smith's* All-American, was the state Lineman of the Year and one of five returning All-State honorees among 30 lettermen. Others include placekicker Tyler Warner (6-5, 235), running back Matt Lindamood (6-1, 215), offensive guard Joey Shafer (6-0, 230) and linebacker Matt Littleton (5-9, 185). Quarterback Andy Thomas (6-0, 195) leads the offense and joining him is junior tight end Kyle Smith (6-5, 235). Defensive regulars include tackle Travis Bunner (6-1, 300) and nose guard Zach Nolan (5-10, 260).

DIVISION I-A '06 NCAA STATISTICS

STANDING AND STATISTICS COURTESY NCAA

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	JR	14	559	406	72.63	12	2.15	5549	9.93	58	10.38	186.0
John Beck, Brigham Young	SR	12	417	289	69.30	8	1.92	3885	9.32	32	7.67	169.1
JaMarcus Russell, LSU	JR	13	342	232	67.84	8	2.34	3129	9.15	28	8.19	167.0
Tyler Palko, Pittsburgh	SR	12	322	220	68.32	9	2.80	2871	8.92	25	7.76	163.2
Kevin Kolb, Houston	SR	14	432	292	67.59	4	.93	3809	8.82	30	6.94	162.7
Jared Zabransky, Boise State	SR	13	288	191	66.32	8	2.78	2587	8.98	23	7.99	162.6
Troy Smith, Ohio State	SR	13	311	203	65.27	6	1.93	2542	8.17	30	9.65	161.9
Colt McCoy, Texas	FR	13	318	217	68.24	7	2.20	2570	8.08	29	9.12	161.8
Brian Brohm, Louisville	JR	11	313	199	63.58	5	1.60	3049	9.74	16	5.11	159.1
Justin Willis, Southern Methodist	FR	11	270	182	67.41	6	2.22	2047	7.58	26	9.63	158.4
Chase Holbrook, New Mexico State	SO	12	567	397	70.02	9	1.59	4619	8.15	34	6.00	155.1
Adam Tafralis, San Jose State	JR	13	276	181	65.58	7	2.54	2284	8.28	21	7.61	155.1
Andre Woodson, Kentucky	JR	13	419	264	63.01	7	1.67	3515	8.39	31	7.40	154.5
Erik Ainge, Tennessee	JR	12	348	233	66.95	9	2.59	2989	8.59	19	5.46	151.9
Jordan Palmer, UTEP	SR	12	429	282	65.73	14	3.26	3595	8.38	26	6.06	149.6
Bobby Reid, Oklahoma State	SO	13	267	148	55.43	11	4.12	2266	8.49	24	8.99	148.1
Nate Davis, Ball State	FR	12	244	150	61.48	8	3.28	1975	8.09	18	7.38	147.3
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	SR	13	467	289	61.88	7	1.50	3426	7.34	37	7.92	146.7
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan	FR	14	388	247	63.66	10	2.58	3031	7.81	26	6.70	146.2
Zac Taylor, Nebraska	SR	14	391	233	59.59	8	2.05	3197	8.18	26	6.65	146.1
Graham Harrell, Texas Tech	SO	13	616	412	66.88	11	1.79	4555	7.39	38	6.17	145.8
Chase Daniel, Missouri	SO	13	452	287	63.50	10	2.21	3527	7.80	28	6.19	145.1
Chris Leak, Florida	SR	14	365	232	63.56	13	3.56	2942	8.06	23	6.30	144.9
John David Booty, USC	JR	13	436	269	61.70	9	2.06	3347	7.68	29	6.65	144.0
John Stocco, Wisconsin	SR	11	268	158	58.96	6	2.24	2185	8.15	17	6.34	143.9

TOTAL OFFENSE

			RUSHING				PASSING		TOTAL OFFENSE			
	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	JR	14	86	504	138	366	559	5549	645	5915	9.17	422.5
Chase Holbrook, New Mexico St.	SO	12	80	153	231	-78	567	4619	647	4541	7.02	378.4
Graham Harrell, Texas Tech	SO	13	33	40	118	-78	616	4555	649	4477	6.90	344.4
John Beck, Brigham Young	SR	12	50	123	131	-8	417	3885	467	3877	8.30	323.1
Chase Daniel, Missouri	SO	13	147	598	219	379	452	3527	599	3906	6.52	300.5
Jordan Palmer, UTEP	SR	12	47	100	186	-86	429	3595	476	3509	7.37	292.4
Curtis Painter, Purdue	SO	14	76	288	181	107	530	3985	606	4092	6.75	292.3
Kevin Kolb, Houston	SR	14	111	397	243	154	432	3809	543	3963	7.30	283.1
Brian Brohm, Louisville	JR	11	47	163	118	45	313	3049	360	3094	8.59	281.3
Shawn Bell, Baylor	SR	9	27	33	170	-137	383	2582	410	2445	5.96	271.7
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	SR	13	82	304	233	71	467	3426	549	3497	6.37	269.0
Andre Woodson, Kentucky	JR	13	70	135	272	-137	419	3515	489	3378	6.91	259.8
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan	FR	14	132	735	214	521	388	3031	520	3552	6.83	253.7
John David Booty, USC	JR	13	33	50	103	-53	436	3347	469	3294	7.02	253.4
JaMarcus Russell, LSU	JR	13	52	282	140	142	342	3129	394	3271	8.30	251.6
Drew Tate, Iowa	SR	11	49	205	81	124	352	2623	401	2747	6.85	249.7
Matt Grothe, South Florida	FR	13	178	802	180	622	317	2576	495	3198	6.46	246.0
Tyler Palko, Pittsburgh	SR	12	66	238	161	77	322	2871	388	2948	7.60	245.7
Mike Kokal, Miami (Ohio)	JR	11	136	526	249	277	355	2419	491	2696	5.49	245.1
Alex Brink, Washington State	JR	12	78	220	212	8	396	2899	474	2907	6.13	242.3
Kellen Lewis, Indiana	FR	11	124	638	197	441	346	2221	470	2662	5.66	242.0
Matt Ryan, Boston College	JR	12	52	128	182	-54	426	2942	478	2888	6.04	240.7
Erik Ainge, Tennessee	JR	12	26	14	116	-102	348	2989	374	2887	7.72	240.6
Patrick White, West Virginia	SO	12	165	1298	79	1219	179	1655	344	2874	8.35	239.5
Brett Ratliff, Utah	SR	13	97	451	195	256	391	2796	488	3052	6.25	234.8

ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/GM
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	SR	13	1928	249	0	0	337	6.46	2177	167.46
Steve Slaton, West Virginia	SO	13	1744	360	0	0	275	7.65	2104	161.85
Johnnie Lee Higgins, UTEP	SR	12	-2	1319	281	275	113	16.58	1873	156.08
Chris Williams, New Mexico State	SO	12	53	1415	92	301	116	16.04	1861	155.08
Ian Johnson, Boise State	SO	12	1714	55	0	0	284	6.23	1769	147.42
Darren McFadden, Arkansas	SO	14	1647	149	0	262	305	6.75	2058	147.00
Patrick Jackson, Louisiana Tech	SO	12	854	181	0	702	221	7.86	1737	144.75
Curtis Brown, Brigham Young	SR	13	1010	566	0	288	276	6.75	1864	143.38
Keenan Burton, Kentucky	JR	13	-7	1036	51	765	113	16.33	1845	141.92
Nate Ilaoa, Hawaii	SR	13	990	837	0	0	198	9.23	1827	140.54
Ray Rice, Rutgers	SO	13	1794	30	0	0	339	5.38	1824	140.31
Dwayne Wright, Fresno State	JR	12	1462	221	0	0	290	5.80	1683	140.25
Shannon Woods, Texas Tech	SO	13	926	572	0	310	245	7.38	1808	139.08
Ahmad Bradshaw, Marshall	JR	12	1523	129	6	0	267	6.21	1658	138.17
Jon Cornish, Kansas	SR	12	1457	194	0	0	274	6.03	1651	137.58
Marshawn Lynch, California	JR	13	1356	328	0	101	262	6.81	1785	137.31
Jonathan Stewart, Oregon	SO	13	981	144	0	646	226	7.84	1771	136.23
Calvin Dawson, La.-Monroe	JR	12	1210	155	0	268	246	6.64	1633	136.08
P.J. Hill, Wisconsin	FR	13	1569	197	0	0	329	5.37	1766	135.85
Matt Forte, Tulane	JR	9	859	360	0	0	192	6.35	1219	135.44
Anthony Alridge, Houston	JR	14	959	274	0	603	141	13.02	1836	131.14
Felix Jones, Arkansas	SO	14	1168	107	0	554	192	9.53	1829	130.64
Mike Hart, Michigan	JR	13	1562	125	0	0	335	5.04	1687	129.77
Darius Walker, Notre Dame	JR	13	1267	391	0	0	311	5.33	1658	127.54
Tony Hunt, Penn State	SR	13	1386	259	0	0	304	5.41	1645	126.54

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
Chris Williams, New Mexico State	SO	12	92	1415	12	7.67
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	SR	12	91	1178	8	7.58
Mike Walker, UCF	SR	12	90	1178	7	7.50
Robert Johnson, Texas Tech	SR	12	89	871	11	7.42
Jarett Dillard, Rice	SO	13	91	1247	21	7.00
Joel Filani, Texas Tech	SR	13	91	1300	13	7.00
Davone Bess, Hawaii	SO	14	96	1220	15	6.86
Earl Bennett, Vanderbilt	SO	12	82	1146	6	6.83
Johnnie Lee Higgins, Jr., UTEP	SR	12	82	1319	13	6.83
Chandler Williams, FIU	SR	10	67	664	1	6.70
Dorien Bryant, Purdue	JR	14	87	1068	6	6.21
Eric Deslauriers, Eastern Michigan	SR	12	74	898	5	6.17
Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame	SR	13	78	1017	12	6.00
Keenan Burton, Kentucky	JR	13	77	1036	12	5.92
A.J. Harris, New Mexico State	SO	12	71	789	7	5.92
Dwayne Jarrett, USC	JR	12	70	1015	12	5.83
Shannon Woods, Texas Tech	SO	13	75	572	2	5.77
Vincent Marshall, Houston	SR	14	80	979	8	5.71

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Stanley Franks, Idaho	JR	12	9	220	1	.75
Dwight Lowery, San Jose State	JR	13	9	111	0	.69
Daymeion Hughes, California	SR	13	8	113	2	.62
Aqib Talib, Kansas	SO	10	6	82	0	.60
Quintin Demps, UTEP	JR	12	7	61	0	.58
John Talley, Duke	SR	12	7	150	1	.58
Ryan Smith, Florida	JR	14	8	44	0	.57
Tony Taylor, Georgia	SR	13	7	97	1	.54
DeJuan Tribble, Boston College	JR	13	7	108	3	.54
Eric Weddle, Utah	SR	13	7	80	2	.54
Trae Williams, South Florida	JR	13	7	8	0	.54
Lionell Singleton, FIU	JR	10	5	59	0	.50
Josh Thompson, La.-Monroe	SO	12	6	80	0	.50
Tra Battle, Georgia	SR	13	6	154	1	.46
Simeon Castille, Alabama	JR	13	6	71	0	.46
Joe Garcia, Nevada	SR	13	6	76	1	.46
William Gay, Louisville	SR	13	6	70	0	.46
Korey Hall, Boise State	SR	13	6	108	0	.46

SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Ian Johnson, Boise State	SO	12	25	0	0	152	12.67
Ahmad Bradshaw, Marshall	JR	12	21	0	0	126	10.50
Jarett Dillard, Rice	SO	13	21	0	0	126	9.69
Arthur Carmody, Louisville	JR	13	0	60	21	123	9.46
Ray Rice, Rutgers	SO	13	20	0	0	120	9.23
Patrick White, West Virginia	SO	12	18	0	0	108	9.00
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	SR	13	19	0	0	116	8.92
Jorvorskie Lane, Texas A&M	SO	13	19	0	0	114	8.77
Pat McAfee, West Virginia	SO	13	0	62	17	113	8.69
Justin Medlock, UCLA	SR	13	0	29	28	113	8.69
Branden Ore, Virginia Tech	SO	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Nate Ilaoa, Hawaii	SR	13	18	0	0	108	8.31
Steve Slaton, West Virginia	SO	13	18	0	0	108	8.31
Jeremy Ito, Rutgers	JR	13	0	41	22	107	8.23
Alex Trlica, Texas Tech	JR	12	0	51	15	96	8.00
Alexis Serna, Oregon State	JR	14	0	45	22	111	7.93
James Davis, Clemson	SO	13	17	0	0	102	7.85
Jared McLaughlin, Brigham Young	SR	13	0	58	14	100	7.69

RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	SR	13	309	1928	6.24	18	148.31
Ian Johnson, Boise State	SO	12	276	1714	6.21	25	142.83
Ray Rice, Rutgers	SO	13	335	1794	5.36	20	138.00
Steve Slaton, West Virginia	SO	13	248	1744	7.03	16	134.15
Ahmad Bradshaw, Marshall	JR	12	249	1523	6.12	19	126.92
Dwayne Wright, Fresno State	JR	12	261	1462	5.60	11	121.83
Jon Cornish, Kansas	SR	12	250	1457	5.83	8	121.42
P.J. Hill, Wisconsin	FR	13	311	1569	5.05	15	120.69
Mike Hart, Michigan	JR	13	318	1562	4.91	14	120.15
Darren McFadden, Arkansas	SO	14	284	1647	5.80	14	117.64
Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss	FR	13	276	1388	5.03	11	106.77
Tony Hunt, Penn State	SR	13	277	1386	5.00	11	106.62
Tashard Choice, Georgia Tech	JR	14	297	1473	4.96	12	105.21
Marshawn Lynch, California	JR	13	223	1356	6.08	11	104.31
Kevin Smith, UCF	SO	9	206	934	4.53	7	103.78
Patrick White, West Virginia	SO	12	165	1219	7.39	18	101.58
Calvin Dawson, La.-Monroe	JR	12	213	1210	5.68	11	100.83
Yvenson Bernard, Oregon State	JR	13	296	1307	4.42	12	100.54

DIVISION I-A '06 NCAA STATISTICS

PUNT RETURNS *(MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
DeSean Jackson, California	SO	25	455	4	18.20
Jeremy Trimble, Army	JR	18	325	2	18.06
Sammie Stroughter, Oregon State	JR	30	470	3	15.67
Ean Randolph, South Florida	SR	25	370	1	14.80
Yamon Figurs, Kansas State	SR	22	323	2	14.68
Mikey Henderson, Georgia	JR	25	367	2	14.68
Chris Garrett, Ohio	FR	26	378	1	14.54
Joe Chapple, Western Michigan	SR	16	230	0	14.38
DeAngelo Wilson, Nevada	SO	16	228	0	14.25
Derek Pegues, Mississippi State	SO	25	350	1	14.00
Frantz Simeon, Florida Atlantic	SO	15	201	0	13.40
Eddie Royal, Virginia Tech	JR	23	304	1	13.22
Syndric Steptoe, Arizona	SR	20	261	1	13.05
Perrish Cox, Oklahoma State	FR	24	308	0	12.83
Larry Taylor, Connecticut	JR	20	255	1	12.75
Brian Bonner, TCU	JR	24	305	0	12.71
Jonathan Hefney, Tennessee	JR	17	206	0	12.12
Derrick Williams, Penn State	SO	25	301	1	12.04

PUNTING *(MINIMUM OF 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor	SR	12	66	3068	46.48
Chris Miller, Ball State	JR	12	57	2637	46.26
Kody Bliss, Auburn	SR	13	47	2149	45.72
Durant Brooks, Georgia Tech	JR	14	79	3596	45.52
Geoffrey Price, Notre Dame	SR	12	50	2272	45.44
Kip Facer, UNLV	SR	12	46	2078	45.17
Britton Colquitt, Tennessee	SO	12	46	2066	44.91
Matt Fodge, Oklahoma State	SO	13	50	2244	44.88
Kyle Stringer, Boise State	SR	13	47	2097	44.62
Justin Brantly, Texas A&M	SO	13	50	2215	44.30
Joe Radigan, Rutgers	SR	13	56	2467	44.05
Nick Folk, Arizona	SR	12	74	3259	44.04
Louie Sakoda, Utah	SO	13	59	2598	44.03
Waylon Prather, San Jose State	JR	13	63	2771	43.98
Thomas Morstead, SMU	SO	12	50	2191	43.82
Matt DiLallo, Colorado	FR	12	47	2056	43.74
Jim Kaylor, Colorado State	JR	12	63	2754	43.71
Ryan Dougherty, East Carolina	SR	13	51	2226	43.65
Brandon Fields, Michigan State	SR	12	57	2469	43.32

FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Justin Medlock, UCLA	SR	13	32	28	.875	2.15
Jeremy Ito, Rutgers	JR	13	29	22	.759	1.69
Kevin Kelly, Penn State	SO	13	34	22	.647	1.69
Sam Swank, Wake Forest	SO	14	31	23	.742	1.64
Arthur Carmody, Louisville	JR	13	25	21	.840	1.62
Mason Crosby, Colorado	SR	12	28	19	.679	1.58
Alexis Serna, Oregon State	JR	14	29	22	.759	1.57
Michael Torres, UCF	JR	11	24	17	.708	1.55
Dan Ennis, Maryland	SR	13	25	20	.800	1.54
Chris Nendick, Northern Illinois	JR	13	27	20	.741	1.54
John Vaughn, Auburn	SR	13	24	20	.833	1.54
Kenny Byrd, New Mexico	SR	13	23	19	.826	1.46
Brian Jackson, Ball State	SR	12	19	17	.895	1.42
Robert Lee, East Carolina	SR	10	23	14	.609	1.40
Kevin Lovell, Cincinnati	SR	13	23	18	.783	1.38
Brandon Pace, Virginia Tech	SR	13	19	18	.947	1.38
James Wilhoit, Tennessee	SR	13	22	18	.818	1.38
Jeff Wolfert, Missouri	SO	13	20	18	.900	1.38

KICKOFF RETURNS *(MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Marcus Thigpen, Indiana	SO	24	723	3	30.13
David Harvey, Akron	FR	17	510	0	30.00
Lionell Singleton, FIU	JR	12	354	1	29.50
Darrell Blackman, N.C. State	JR	19	549	1	28.89
Damon Nickson, Middle Tennessee	JR	21	605	2	28.81
Jonathan Stewart, Oregon	SO	23	646	0	28.09
Jeff Smith, Boston College	FR	23	645	1	28.04
Brandon West, Western Michigan	FR	22	615	0	27.95
Lowell Robinson, Pittsburgh	JR	26	725	1	27.88
Kerry Franks, Texas A&M	JR	16	443	1	27.69
Cedric Peerman, Virginia	SO	19	519	0	27.32
Josh Wilson, Maryland	SR	31	847	1	27.32
Grant Jones, Oklahoma State	SR	21	572	1	27.24
Darius Reynaud, West Virginia	JR	30	813	1	27.10
Tristan Davis, Auburn	SO	28	756	0	27.00
C.J. Gable, Southern California	FR	16	432	0	27.00
JaJuan Spillman, Louisville	FR	17	450	1	26.47
Marcus Herford, Kansas	SO	29	757	0	26.10

TEAM LEADERS

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Navy	13	764	4251	5.56	39	327.00
West Virginia	13	590	3939	6.68	48	303.00
Air Force	12	660	2753	4.17	22	229.42
Arkansas	14	539	3199	5.94	26	228.50
Clemson	13	495	2832	5.72	31	217.85
Boise State	13	551	2784	5.05	39	214.15
Oklahoma State	13	522	2704	5.18	28	208.00
Texas A&M	13	540	2689	4.98	32	206.85
TCU	13	557	2530	4.54	28	194.62
Illinois	12	434	2266	5.22	15	188.83
La.-Lafayette	12	478	2261	4.73	20	188.42
Louisville	13	483	2409	4.99	35	185.31
Connecticut	12	486	2195	4.52	18	182.92
Oregon	13	472	2364	5.01	26	181.85
Rutgers	13	496	2342	4.72	28	180.15
Fresno State	12	430	2160	5.02	15	180.00
Oklahoma	14	557	2480	4.45	25	177.14
Bowling Green	12	505	2120	4.20	19	176.67

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Michigan	13	301	564	1.87	5	43.4
TCU	13	367	791	2.16	8	60.8
Texas	13	345	795	2.30	8	61.2
Miami (Fla.)	13	391	882	2.26	12	67.8
Florida	14	370	1015	2.74	8	72.5
Western Michigan	13	380	989	2.60	11	76.1
Penn State	13	400	1137	2.84	8	87.5
Boise State	13	361	1158	3.21	7	89.1
UCLA	13	419	1184	2.83	9	91.1
USC	13	399	1184	2.97	6	91.1
Virginia Tech	13	429	1186	2.76	7	91.2
Florida State	13	421	1203	2.86	11	92.5
West Virginia	13	407	1213	2.98	12	93.3
LSU	13	400	1262	3.16	7	97.1
Ohio State	13	384	1278	3.33	9	98.3
Oklahoma	14	424	1382	3.26	10	98.7
Rutgers	13	447	1313	2.94	10	101.0
Clemson	13	463	1340	2.89	13	103.1

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Hawaii	14	913	7829	8.58	89	559.21
Louisville	13	867	6179	7.13	61	475.31
New Mexico State	12	930	5702	6.13	53	475.17
Brigham Young	13	889	6051	6.81	63	465.46
West Virginia	13	823	5998	7.29	65	461.38
Texas Tech	13	875	5822	6.65	54	447.85
Houston	14	935	6245	6.68	60	446.07
Missouri	13	922	5533	6.00	48	425.62
Oregon	13	958	5497	5.74	48	422.85
Boise State	13	857	5468	6.38	68	420.62
LSU	13	818	5427	6.63	59	417.46
California	13	840	5408	6.44	54	416.00
Purdue	14	941	5820	6.18	48	415.71
Nebraska	14	965	5804	6.01	59	414.57
Clemson	13	822	5342	6.50	55	410.92
Oklahoma State	13	843	5327	6.32	61	409.77
TCU	13	909	5310	5.84	46	408.46
Texas A&M	13	870	5166	5.94	46	397.38

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Virginia Tech	13	743	2853	3.84	14	219.46
TCU	13	753	3054	4.06	19	234.92
LSU	13	764	3156	4.13	20	242.77
Rutgers	13	759	3279	4.32	22	252.23
Wisconsin	13	775	3290	4.25	18	253.08
Florida	14	828	3576	4.32	23	255.43
Miami (Fla.)	13	753	3322	4.41	22	255.54
Georgia	13	775	3357	4.33	28	258.23
Wyoming	12	723	3155	4.36	32	262.92
Michigan	13	789	3488	4.42	25	268.31
Western Michigan	13	762	3580	4.70	31	275.38
Ohio State	13	799	3646	4.56	19	280.46
Clemson	13	848	3650	4.30	25	280.77
Boise State	13	758	3692	4.87	30	284.00
Penn State	13	840	3698	4.40	21	284.46
Oklahoma	14	858	4020	4.69	29	287.14
Virginia	12	721	3474	4.82	27	289.50
Florida State	13	835	3781	4.53	31	290.85

TURNOVER MARGIN

	GAINED			LOST			
	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
Minnesota	15	17	32	3	11	14	1.38
Boston College	16	21	37	11	11	22	1.15
Kentucky	18	14	32	10	7	17	1.15
Brigham Young	9	18	27	4	9	13	1[illegible]
Michigan	14	12	26	4	8	12	
Wake Forest	9	22	31	12	6	18	
Nevada	17	20	37	13	12	25	
Syracuse	11	17	28	12	5	17	
Western Michigan	10	24	34	9	13	22	
Boise State	11	20	31	11	9	20	
Rutgers	16	15	31	7	13	20	
La.-Monroe	15	19	34	9	15	24	
Ohio State	6	21	27	12	6	18	
San Jose State	14	16	30	13	8	21	
Texas	19	13	32	14	9	23	
Texas A&M	11	11	22	9	4	13	
Air Force	13	9	22	10	4	14	
Colorado	12	12	24	8	8	16	

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
Hawaii	14	615	444	12	72.20	6178	13.91	62	441.3
New Mexico State	12	607	421	12	69.36	4792	11.38	34	399.3
Texas Tech	13	655	438	11	66.87	4803	10.97	39	369.5
Brigham Young	13	452	311	9	68.81	4206	13.52	33	323.5
UTEP	12	447	290	17	64.88	3754	12.94	29	312.8
Purdue	14	541	322	20	59.52	4082	12.68	24	291.6
Louisville	13	384	245	7	63.80	3770	15.39	22	290.0
Houston	14	445	300	5	67.42	3889	12.96	30	277.8
Kentucky	13	436	273	7	62.61	3597	13.18	31	276.7
Missouri	13	465	291	11	62.58	3590	12.34	29	276.2
Baylor	12	510	307	17	60.20	3300	10.75	24	275.0
Tennessee	13	415	265	11	63.86	3438	12.97	24	264.5
Notre Dame	13	471	290	7	61.57	3433	11.84	37	264.1
USC	13	447	273	11	61.07	3430	12.56	30	263.8
Washington State	12	430	260	12	60.47	3117	11.99	23	259.8
Ball State	12	373	232	11	62.20	3112	13.41	27	259.3
California	13	413	245	14	59.32	3292	13.44	25	253.2
LSU	13	368	245	9	66.58	3272	13.36	30	251.7

PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
Wisconsin	13	387	185	47.80	15	3.88	1798	4.65	6	1.55	84.19
Virginia Tech	13	314	161	51.27	17	5.41	1667	5.31	6	1.91	91.37
LSU	13	364	172	47.25	16	4.40	1894	5.20	11	3.02	92.19
Florida	14	458	244	53.28	21	4.59	2561	5.59	10	2.18	98.31
Kent State	12	326	171	52.45	16	4.91	1907	5.85	8	2.45	99.92
Georgia	13	342	182	53.22	19	5.56	1950	5.70	11	3.22	100.60
TCU	13	386	207	53.63	16	4.15	2263	5.86	9	2.33	102.25
Rutgers	13	312	162	51.92	15	4.81	1966	6.30	8	2.56	103.68
Georgia Tech	14	461	238	51.63	13	2.82	2741	5.95	11	2.39	103.78
Ohio State	13	415	242	58.31	21	5.06	2368	5.71	10	2.41	104.06
South Florida	13	389	199	51.16	15	3.86	2382	6.12	11	2.83	104.26
Wyoming	12	319	166	52.04	11	3.45	1876	5.88	10	3.13	104.85
Oklahoma	14	434	225	51.84	18	4.15	2638	6.08	15	3.46	105.97
Penn State	13	440	244	55.45	13	2.95	2561	5.82	10	2.27	105.98
Ohio	14	415	217	52.29	13	3.13	2412	5.81	14	3.37	105.99
Brigham Young	13	445	245	55.06	18	4.04	2666	5.99	12	2.70	106.23
Clemson	13	385	214	55.58	14	3.64	2310	6.00	9	2.34	106.44
Arkansas	14	433	215	49.65	16	3.70	2591	5.98	20	4.62	107.82

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Hawaii	14	656	89	46.86
Boise State	13	516	68	39.69
West Virginia	13	505	65	38.85
Louisville	13	491	61	37.77
Brigham Young	13	478	63	36.77
Texas	13	467	63	35.92
Oklahoma State	13	458	61	35.23
Ohio State	13	450	61	34.62
LSU	13	438	59	33.69
Houston	14	462	60	33.00
California	13	427	54	32.85
Clemson	13	425	55	32.69
Texas Tech	13	422	54	32.46
Pittsburgh	12	381	49	31.75
New Mexico State	12	374	53	31.17
Notre Dame	13	403	55	31.00
Nebraska	14	428	59	30.57
USC	13	396	50	30.46

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Virginia Tech	13	143	14	11.0
Wisconsin	13	157	18	12.1
TCU	13	160	19	12.3
LSU	13	164	20	12.6
Ohio State	13	166	19	12.8
Florida	14	189	23	13.5
Auburn	13	181	22	13.9
Rutgers	13	186	22	14.3
Penn State	13	187	21	14.4
Brigham Young	13	191	23	14.7
USC	13	197	21	15.2
Wake Forest	14	215	25	15.4
Miami (Fla.)	13	201	22	15.5
Boston College	13	204	23	15.7
Michigan	13	207	25	15.9
Clemson	13	210	25	16.2
Louisville	13	212	26	16.3
South Florida	13	220	25	16.9

DIVISION I-AA '06 NCAA STATISTICS

STANDING AND STATISTICS COURTESY NCAA

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Josh Johnson, San Diego	JR	12	371	246	66.31	5	1.35	3320	8.95	34	9.16	169.0
Jason Murrietta, Northern Arizona	SR	11	329	214	65.05	5	1.52	2827	8.59	34	10.33	168.3
Tyler Thigpen, Coastal Carolina	SR	12	339	217	64.01	11	3.24	3296	9.72	29	8.55	167.4
Chris Wallace, Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SR	12	210	129	61.43	9	4.29	2023	9.63	20	9.52	165.2
Justin Rascati, James Madison	SR	12	231	153	66.23	6	2.60	2045	8.85	20	8.66	164.0
Liam Coen, Massachusetts	JR	15	334	217	64.97	10	2.99	3016	9.03	26	7.78	160.5
Nick Hill, Southern Illinois	JR	13	196	121	61.73	4	2.04	1721	8.78	15	7.65	156.7
Princeton Shepherd, Hampton	SR	11	222	150	67.57	4	1.80	1750	7.88	17	7.66	155.5
Collin Drafts, Charleston Southern	SR	11	319	223	69.91	14	4.39	2665	8.35	21	6.58	153.0
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	JR	13	432	293	67.82	7	1.62	3125	7.23	29	6.71	147.5
Eric Sanders, Northern Iowa	JR	11	249	169	67.87	7	2.81	1934	7.77	15	6.02	147.4
Sean Schaefer, Towson	SO	10	380	260	68.42	9	2.37	3033	7.98	19	5.00	147.2
Scott Knapp, Duquesne	SO	10	351	209	59.54	13	3.70	2853	8.13	28	7.98	146.7
Kevin Hoyng, Dayton	SR	10	221	131	59.28	8	3.62	2052	9.29	11	4.98	146.5
Jimmy Oliver, Jackson State	JR	11	221	138	62.44	12	5.43	1906	8.62	14	6.33	144.9
Sedale Threatt, Lehigh	JR	11	246	151	61.38	5	2.03	2008	8.16	14	5.69	144.7
Albert Chester, Florida A&M	JR	10	264	164	62.12	5	1.89	1986	7.52	18	6.82	144.0
Josh Dudash, Stony Brook	JR	11	285	179	62.81	4	1.40	2231	7.83	15	5.26	143.1
Luke Drone, Illinois State	JR	13	349	203	58.17	13	3.72	2961	8.48	21	6.02	141.8
Dominic Randolph, Holy Cross	SO	9	299	184	61.54	6	2.01	2237	7.48	19	6.35	141.3
Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State	FR	15	274	167	60.95	10	3.65	2251	8.22	15	5.47	140.7
Matt Bassuener, Georgetown	SR	10	209	144	68.90	8	3.83	1359	6.50	15	7.18	139.5
Brian Boland, Monmouth	SR	12	305	197	64.59	9	2.95	2353	7.71	14	4.59	138.6
Justin Haddix, Western Kentucky	SR	11	279	171	61.29	9	3.23	2186	7.84	14	5.02	137.2
Stephen McGrath, Marist	JR	11	239	151	63.18	10	4.18	2014	8.43	8	3.35	136.6

TOTAL OFFENSE

			RUSHING				PASSING		TOTAL OFFENSE			
	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Josh Johnson, San Diego	JR	12	107	828	108	720	371	3320	478	4040	8.45	336.7
Tyler Thigpen, Coastal Carolina	SR	12	113	780	124	656	339	3296	452	3952	8.74	329.3
Sean Schaefer, Towson	SO	10	61	152	212	-60	380	3033	441	2973	6.74	297.3
Collin Drafts, Charleston Southern	SR	11	130	654	141	513	319	2665	449	3178	7.08	288.9
Scott Knapp, Duquesne	SO	10	40	95	139	-44	351	2853	391	2809	7.18	280.9
Ryan Alexander, Davidson	JR	10	54	261	76	185	377	2581	431	2766	6.42	276.6
Jeff Terrell, Princeton	SR	10	106	417	145	272	331	2445	437	2717	6.22	271.7
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	JR	13	149	608	230	378	432	3125	581	3503	6.03	269.5
Jason Murrietta, Northern Arizona	SR	11	83	288	243	45	329	2827	412	2872	6.97	261.1
Dominic Randolph, Holy Cross	SO	9	49	208	119	89	299	2237	348	2326	6.68	258.4
Joe Flacco, Delaware	JR	11	83	225	171	54	417	2783	500	2837	5.67	257.9
Wes Pope, Elon	JR	11	86	202	167	35	375	2572	461	2607	5.66	237.0
Scott Bonnono, St. Peter's	JR	10	53	93	215	-122	431	2470	484	2348	4.85	234.8
Luke Drone, Illinois State	JR	13	57	173	123	50	349	2961	406	3011	7.42	231.6
Albert Chester, Florida A&M	JR	10	89	404	84	320	264	1986	353	2306	6.53	230.6
Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State	FR	15	188	1258	105	1153	274	2251	462	3404	7.37	226.9
Mike Fritz, Dartmouth	SR	10	101	578	168	410	263	1838	364	2248	6.18	224.8
Jimmy Oliver, Jackson State	JR	11	110	673	127	546	221	1906	331	2452	7.41	222.9
Joseph DiGiacomo, Brown	SR	10	75	268	201	67	301	2161	376	2228	5.93	222.8
Marvin Burroughs, Villanova	SR	11	116	532	206	326	283	2123	399	2449	6.14	222.6
Duran Lawson, Citadel	JR	11	112	455	157	298	325	2138	437	2436	5.57	221.5
Kevin Hoyng, Dayton	SR	10	113	419	273	146	221	2052	334	2198	6.58	219.8
Brian Boland, Monmouth	SR	12	99	407	154	253	305	2353	404	2606	6.45	217.2
Mike Saraceno, Colgate	JR	11	86	420	96	324	259	2048	345	2372	6.88	215.6
Chris Horton, Jacksonville	JR	10	68	368	128	240	268	1899	336	2139	6.37	213.9

ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/GM
Justise Hairston, Central Conn. St.	SR	11	1847	58	123	170	305	7.21	2198	199.82
Arkee Whitlock, Southern Illinois	SR	13	1828	63	0	439	342	6.81	2330	179.23
Chris Fletcher, Austin Peay	JR	11	1401	200	0	241	291	6.33	1842	167.45
Nick Ruhe, Dayton	SR	10	0	977	214	482	92	18.18	1673	167.30
Marcus Mason, Youngstown State	SR	12	1847	79	0	0	309	6.23	1926	160.50
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	SR	10	1213	239	0	116	263	5.96	1568	156.80
D. D. Terry, Sam Houston State	SR	10	1328	237	0	0	237	6.60	1565	156.50
Clay Green, Jacksonville State	SR	11	1083	109	81	439	285	6.01	1712	155.64
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	JR	11	1613	87	0	0	285	5.96	1700	154.55
Mike McLeod, Yale	SO	10	1364	132	0	0	305	4.90	1496	149.60
Roosevelt Kiser, Florida A&M	SR	11	55	647	169	753	119	13.65	1624	147.64
Pierre Rembert, Illinois State	SR	13	1743	90	0	76	374	5.10	1909	146.85
Steve Baylark, Massachusetts	SR	15	1960	237	0	0	361	6.09	2197	146.47
Dedrick Poole, Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SR	11	240	517	168	621	100	15.46	1546	140.55
Carl Berman, Indiana State	SR	11	46	783	16	689	115	13.34	1534	139.45
Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois	SO	11	1417	116	0	0	247	6.21	1533	139.36
JT Rogan, San Diego	SO	12	1002	313	0	347	230	7.23	1662	138.50
Todd Harris, St. Francis (Pa.)	SR	11	1330	87	0	102	294	5.17	1519	138.09
Dane Samuels, Iona	JR	10	698	197	0	439	204	6.54	1334	133.40
Donald Chapman, Tennessee-Martin	JR	11	1412	37	0	0	277	5.23	1449	131.73
Tory Cooper, Citadel	JR	11	807	247	62	332	223	6.49	1448	131.64
Javarris Williams, Tennessee State	SO	11	1233	210	0	0	258	5.59	1443	131.18
Kevin Richardson, Appalachian State	JR	15	1676	285	0	0	332	5.91	1961	130.73
Erick Fitzpatrick, Morehead State	SO	11	381	459	34	559	119	12.04	1433	130.27
Steven Whitehead, McNeese State	JR	12	156	596	353	455	111	14.05	1560	130.00

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
Maurice Price, Charleston Southern	JR	11	103	985	10	9.36
Alex Watson, Northern Arizona	JR	11	82	1017	15	7.45
Jaleel Kindell, St. Peter's	SO	10	74	855	3	7.40
David Ball, New Hampshire	SR	13	93	1114	13	7.15
Lanis Frederick, Austin Peay	SO	11	77	1101	7	7.00
Lou Russo, La Salle	SR	10	70	744	5	7.00
Terrell Hudgins, Elon	FR	10	69	1027	8	6.90
Michael Mayers, Elon	JR	11	73	866	3	6.64
Ryan Maher, Holy Cross	JR	11	69	797	6	6.27
Eric Weems, Bethune-Cookman	SR	11	69	918	9	6.27
Eric Yancey, Towson	SR	11	68	826	10	6.18
Bruce Hocker, Duquesne	JR	10	61	1070	16	6.10
Dan Spriggs, Duquesne	SR	10	61	778	4	6.10
Adam San Miguel, Monmouth	SR	12	73	872	6	6.08
Brett Dioguardi, Davidson	SR	10	59	859	6	5.90
Duvaughn Flagler, Gardner-Webb	JR	11	64	740	7	5.82
Ben Patrick, Delaware	SR	11	64	639	6	5.82
Aaron Love, Delaware	SO	10	58	740	4	5.80

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Dre Dokes, Northern Iowa	SR	11	7	116	1	.64
Brent Webber, Sacramento State	JR	10	6	23	0	.60
Jean-Pierre Marshall, Miss. Valley St.	JR	11	6	2	0	.55
Chris Parsons, Northern Iowa	JR	11	6	34	0	.55
Dominique Rodgers, Tennessee State	JR	11	6	70	0	.55
Bobbie Williams, Bethune-Cookman	JR	11	6	25	0	.55
Steward Franks, Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SO	12	6	96	0	.50
Frank Moore, Alabama A&M	SO	12	6	50	0	.50
Andy Shalbrack, Columbia	FR	10	5	62	0	.50
Ken Chicoine, Cal Poly	SR	11	5	35	0	.45
Jarmaul George, Southern	JR	11	5	5	0	.45
Andy Green, Drake	SO	11	5	131	1	.45
Brandon Jackson, Georgia Southern	SO	11	5	17	0	.45
Walter Musgrove, Texas State	SR	11	5	3	0	.45
Mike Niklos, Robert Morris	SR	11	5	23	0	.45
Stacey Thomas, Texas Southern	SR	11	5	105	1	.45
Travarous Bain, Hampton	SR	12	5	65	0	.42
David Jiles, Monmouth	SR	12	5	88	1	.42

SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	SR	10	22	0	0	132	13.20
Kevin Richardson, Appalachian St.	JR	15	31	0	0	186	12.40
Mike McLeod, Yale	SO	10	20	0	0	120	12.00
Jerome Felton, Furman	JR	12	23	0	0	140	11.67
Arkee Whitlock, Southern Illinois	SR	13	25	0	0	150	11.54
Marcus Mason, Youngstown State	SR	12	23	0	0	138	11.50
Justise Hairston, Central Conn. St.	SR	11	20	0	0	120	10.91
Willie Cashmore, Drake	JR	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois	SO	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
Chris Fletcher, Austin Peay	JR	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
D.D. Terry, Sam Houston State	SR	10	16	0	0	98	9.80
Bruce Hocker, Duquesne	JR	10	16	0	0	96	9.60
Clay Green, Jacksonville State	SR	11	16	0	0	96	8.73
Jonathan Hurt, Lafayette	SR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
JT Rogan, San Diego	SO	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Joe Sandberg, Pennsylvania	SR	10	14	0	0	84	8.40
Donald Chapman, Tenn.-Martin	JR	11	15	0	0	92	8.36
Alex Watson, Northern Arizona	JR	11	15	0	0	90	8.18

RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Justise Hairston, Central Conn. St.	SR	11	277	1847	6.67	20	167.91
Marcus Mason, Youngstown State	SR	12	302	1847	6.12	23	153.92
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	JR	11	277	1613	5.82	10	146.64
Arkee Whitlock, Southern Illinois	SR	13	317	1828	5.77	25	140.62
Mike McLeod, Yale	SO	10	297	1364	4.59	19	136.40
Pierre Rembert, Illinois State	SR	13	355	1743	4.91	16	134.08
D.D. Terry, Sam Houston State	SR	10	215	1328	6.18	15	132.80
Steve Baylark, Massachusetts	SR	15	338	1960	5.80	15	130.67
Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois	SO	11	233	1417	6.08	18	128.82
Donald Chapman, Tenn.-Martin	JR	11	269	1412	5.25	15	128.36
Chris Fletcher, Austin Peay	JR	11	255	1401	5.49	16	127.36
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	SR	10	237	1213	5.12	20	121.30
Todd Harris, St. Francis (Pa.)	SR	11	275	1330	4.84	11	120.91
Deshawn Baker, South Carolina	SR	11	204	1289	6.32	9	117.18
Jordan Scott, Colgate	SO	11	290	1234	4.26	12	112.18
Javarris Williams, Tennessee State	SO	11	245	1233	5.03	11	112.09
Emmanuel Marc, Delaware State	SR	11	187	1230	6.58	12	111.82
Kevin Richardson, Appalachian St.	JR	15	302	1676	5.55	30	111.73

DIVISION I-AA '06 NCAA STATISTICS

PUNT RETURNS *(MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Derrick Harris, Sam Houston State	SR	15	366	2	24.40
Nate Hughes, Alcorn State	SR	22	460	2	20.91
Eric Weems, Bethune-Cookman	SR	19	331	1	17.42
Steven Whitehead, McNeese State	JR	21	353	1	16.81
Eric Davis, Missouri State	SO	15	246	2	16.40
Anthony Bey, St. Peter's	FR	15	228	1	15.20
Craig Turner, Southern Illinois	JR	23	343	1	14.91
Tuff Harris, Montana	SR	46	667	2	14.50
Shaun Adair, Lafayette	SO	16	231	0	14.44
L.C. Baker, James Madison	JR	19	259	0	13.63
C.J. Hirschman, Charleston Southern	JR	19	258	1	13.58
Frank Trovato, Lehigh	SR	22	283	1	12.86
Jaymar Johnson, Jackson State	SR	19	241	1	12.68
Dexter Jackson, Appalachian State	JR	30	369	2	12.30
Nolan Applegate, Bucknell	SO	23	281	0	12.22
Larue Burley, Southern Utah	SR	20	242	1	12.10
Dedrick Poole, Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SR	14	168	0	12.00
Stephen Tedesco, Sacred Heart	FR	14	165	0	11.79

PUNTING *(MINIMUM OF 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
Breck Ackley, Southern	SR	11	49	2228	45.47
David Simonhoff, Southeast Mo. St.	SR	11	59	2644	44.81
Benjamin Dato, Fordham	JR	11	58	2587	44.60
Rhian Madrid, Northern Arizona	SR	10	43	1909	44.40
Colin McDonough, Princeton	SR	9	34	1483	43.62
Dan Zeidman, Idaho State	JR	11	53	2310	43.58
Michael Hanna, Gardner-Webb	SO	11	46	2000	43.48
Mitch Lively, Sacramento State	SR	11	62	2694	43.45
Chris MacDonald, Texas State	JR	11	46	1996	43.39
Nathan Stokes, Missouri State	JR	11	54	2310	42.78
Brandon Lane, Elon	SO	9	35	1485	42.43
Ryan Donckers, Eastern Washington	SR	11	62	2627	42.37
Chris Hicks, Samford	SR	11	60	2530	42.17
Dan Carpenter, Montana	JR	14	62	2595	41.85
Tim Mayse, Western Carolina	SR	11	50	2082	41.64
Nick Coromelas, Cal Poly	SR	11	44	1828	41.55
Wesley Taylor, Florida A&M	JR	11	43	1774	41.26
Andrew Levers, Portland State	SR	11	58	2392	41.24
Zach Walden, Jacksonville State	JR	11	57	2349	41.21

FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Dan Carpenter, Montana	JR	14	30	24	.800	1.71
Robert Weeks, Northwestern State	SO	11	24	18	.750	1.64
Rob Zarrilli, Hofstra	JR	11	21	18	.857	1.64
Brian Wingert, Northern Iowa	SR	11	23	17	.739	1.55
Blake Bercegeay, McNeese State	SO	12	20	18	.900	1.50
Brett Bergstrom, E. Washington	SR	11	18	15	.833	1.36
Andrew Paterini, Hampton	SR	12	21	16	.762	1.33
Eric Azorr, Portland State	SR	11	21	14	.667	1.27
Wesley Taylor, Florida A&M	JR	11	22	14	.636	1.27
Alan Kimball, Yale	JR	10	19	12	.632	1.20
Chris Lofrese, Iona	SR	10	14	12	.857	1.20
Robbie Dehaze, Northern Arizona	JR	11	17	13	.765	1.18
Jason Fralicker, Albany (N.Y.)	JR	11	19	13	.684	1.18
Gavin Hallford, Jacksonville State	SO	11	22	13	.591	1.18
Chris James, Western Kentucky	JR	11	17	13	.765	1.18
Cory Long, Stephen F. Austin	SO	11	19	13	.684	1.18
Craig Coffin, Southern Illinois	SR	13	16	15	.938	1.15
Mark Troyan, Duquesne	SO	9	17	10	.588	1.11

KICKOFF RETURNS *(MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Ulysses Banks, Alabama A&M	FR	13	454	2	34.92
Kevin Teel, Hampton	SO	23	718	1	31.22
Dane Samuels, Iona	JR	16	439	0	27.44
Kadafi Tunsil, Delaware State	SR	15	408	0	27.20
Dedrick Poole, Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SR	23	621	0	27.00
Kenny Mitchell, Georgetown	SO	41	1075	0	26.22
Jessie Burtojn, Tennessee-Martin	JR	20	524	2	26.20
Rashaad Woodard, Delaware	SR	21	548	0	26.10
William Ford, South Carolina State	SO	20	517	1	25.85
Michael Mayers, Elon	JR	16	408	0	25.50
Davin Walker, Eastern Kentucky	SO	28	712	1	25.43
Mike Wall, Albany (N.Y.)	JR	14	349	1	24.93
Steven Santoro, Yale	SO	18	443	1	24.61
Bryan Walters, Cornell	FR	22	540	1	24.55
Mario Hines, Robert Morris	JR	20	490	0	24.50
Clay Green, Jacksonville State	SR	18	439	0	24.39
Larue Burley, Southern Utah	SR	24	580	0	24.17
Steven Whitehead, McNeese State	JR	19	455	0	23.95

TEAM LEADERS

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Central Conn. State	11	563	3134	5.57	42	284.91
Wofford	11	571	2899	5.08	32	263.55
South Carolina State	11	498	2663	5.35	27	242.09
Appalachian State	15	664	3619	5.45	48	241.27
Bucknell	11	539	2587	4.80	24	235.18
Nicholls State	11	544	2573	4.73	18	233.91
Southern Illinois	13	573	3035	5.30	37	233.46
Drake	11	495	2545	5.14	31	231.36
Youngstown State	14	581	3132	5.39	38	223.71
Northern Iowa	11	443	2412	5.44	22	219.27
James Madison	12	493	2620	5.31	26	218.33
Tennessee-Martin	12	507	2619	5.17	23	218.25
VMI	11	511	2273	4.45	16	206.64
San Diego	12	438	2411	5.50	32	200.92
Yale	10	429	2008	4.68	23	200.80
Rhode Island	11	573	2113	3.69	20	192.09
Delaware State	11	366	2104	5.75	25	191.27
Eastern Illinois	13	514	2437	4.74	15	187.46

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Maine	11	335	703	2.10	9	63.9
Harvard	10	329	665	2.02	14	66.5
Iona	10	271	669	2.47	6	66.9
James Madison	12	417	1018	2.44	17	84.8
Albany (N.Y.)	11	414	992	2.40	6	90.2
Robert Morris	11	383	1098	2.87	7	99.8
Jackson State	10	332	1103	3.32	15	100.3
Monmouth	12	354	1208	3.41	11	100.7
Montana	14	469	1495	3.19	11	106.8
San Diego	12	370	1287	3.48	11	107.3
Appalachian State	15	530	1625	3.07	9	108.3
Charleston Southern	11	393	1197	3.05	12	108.8
Portland State	11	365	1232	3.38	13	112.0
Weber State	11	403	1238	3.07	15	112.5
Tennessee-Martin	12	409	1355	3.31	13	112.9
Massachusetts	15	492	1706	3.47	16	113.7
Alabama A&M	12	384	1366	3.56	14	113.8
Jacksonville State	11	378	1263	3.34	11	114.8

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
San Diego	12	829	5931	7.15	71	494.25
Coastal Carolina	12	787	5617	7.14	54	468.08
Appalachian State	15	1006	6265	6.23	71	417.67
Northern Iowa	11	698	4491	6.43	41	408.27
Drake	11	759	4459	5.87	40	405.36
Northern Arizona	11	730	4456	6.10	48	405.09
New Hampshire	13	930	5208	5.60	63	400.62
Illinois State	13	871	5167	5.93	50	397.46
James Madison	12	730	4694	6.43	51	391.17
Central Conn. State	11	694	4255	6.13	51	386.82
Holy Cross	11	765	4228	5.53	37	384.36
Massachusetts	15	898	5757	6.41	52	383.80
Davidson	10	689	3836	5.57	38	383.60
Youngstown State	14	898	5343	5.95	58	381.64
Duquesne	10	641	3816	5.95	37	381.60
Western Illinois	11	710	4195	5.91	45	381.36
Princeton	10	711	3752	5.28	29	375.20
Southern Illinois	13	779	4841	6.21	57	372.38

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Robert Morris	11	650	2512	3.86	19	228.36
Maine	11	637	2529	3.97	18	229.91
Iona	10	574	2321	4.04	24	232.10
Albany (N.Y.)	11	712	2649	3.72	18	240.82
Cal Poly	11	646	2731	4.23	20	248.27
Tennessee-Martin	12	738	3066	4.15	22	255.50
Monmouth	12	699	3154	4.51	21	262.83
Prairie View	10	555	2660	4.79	25	266.00
Montana	14	863	3729	4.32	25	266.36
La Salle	10	547	2670	4.88	33	267.00
Richmond	11	660	2956	4.48	26	268.73
San Diego	12	710	3229	4.55	22	269.08
Miss. Valley State	11	624	2960	4.74	34	269.09
Jacksonville State	11	668	2972	4.45	25	270.18
Hampton	12	755	3258	4.32	23	271.50
Jackson State	10	617	3018	4.89	36	274.36
Appalachian State	15	953	4154	4.36	27	276.93
Duquesne	10	599	2776	4.63	20	277.60

TURNOVER MARGIN

	GAINED			LOST			
	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
Wofford	15	16	31	4	6	10	1.91
Delaware State	17	10	27	7	4	11	1.45
South Carolina State	16	13	29	5	9	14	1.36
Yale	9	14	23	6	6	12	1.10
Drake	10	18	28	5	11	16	1.09
Central Conn. State	14	10	24	9	4	13	1.00
Columbia	9	15	24	8	6	14	1.00
McNeese State	18	13	31	9	10	19	1.00
San Diego	4	16	20	3	5	8	1.00
Eastern Illinois	19	17	36	6	18	24	.92
Georgia Southern	9	14	23	7	6	13	.91
Hampton	10	16	26	11	5	16	.83
Portland State	12	19	31	10	12	22	.82
Youngstown State	13	15	28	6	12	18	.71
New Hampshire	12	11	23	7	7	14	.69
Alabama A&M	11	15	26	10	8	18	.67
Butler	12	10	22	4	11	15	.64
Northern Iowa	7	15	22	8	7	15	.64

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
San Diego	12	391	260	5	66.50	3520	13.54	36	293.3
Duquesne	10	357	212	13	59.38	2877	13.57	28	287.7
Towson	11	409	275	11	67.24	3161	11.49	19	287.4
Coastal Carolina	12	353	223	11	63.17	3429	15.38	30	285.8
Holy Cross	11	421	259	7	61.52	2987	11.53	25	271.5
Northern Arizona	11	340	222	6	65.29	2939	13.24	34	267.2
Davidson	10	381	216	10	56.69	2617	12.12	21	261.7
Charleston Southern	11	348	239	16	68.68	2863	11.98	23	260.3
Delaware	11	420	264	10	62.86	2783	10.54	18	253.0
Grambling	11	367	197	11	53.68	2771	14.07	24	251.9
St. Peter's	10	433	242	13	55.89	2480	10.25	15	248.0
Dayton	10	272	152	11	55.88	2472	16.26	12	247.2
Elon	11	387	238	12	61.50	2707	11.37	18	246.1
Princeton	10	336	197	12	58.63	2458	12.48	17	245.8
New Hampshire	13	441	301	7	68.25	3190	10.60	29	245.4
Gardner-Webb	11	378	218	21	57.67	2655	12.18	19	241.4
Pennsylvania	10	359	194	12	54.04	2309	11.90	11	230.9
Illinois State	13	351	203	14	57.83	2961	14.59	21	227.8

PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
Robert Morris	11	267	121	45.32	13	4.87	1414	5.30	7	2.62	88.70
Tenn.-Martin	12	329	157	47.72	13	3.95	1711	5.20	8	2.43	91.51
Monmouth	12	345	169	48.99	16	4.64	1946	5.64	8	2.32	94.76
San Diego	12	340	166	48.82	16	4.71	1942	5.71	10	2.94	97.07
Hampton	12	313	151	48.24	16	5.11	1631	5.21	15	4.79	97.56
Portland State	11	357	192	53.78	19	5.32	2088	5.85	8	2.24	99.68
Montana	14	394	208	52.79	19	4.82	2234	5.67	12	3.05	100.83
Cal Poly	11	261	125	47.89	12	4.60	1463	5.61	12	4.60	100.96
Albany (N.Y.)	11	298	158	53.02	12	4.03	1657	5.56	9	3.02	101.62
Drake	11	358	194	54.19	18	5.03	2151	6.01	8	2.23	101.99
Iona	10	303	161	53.14	14	4.62	1652	5.45	12	3.96	102.73
Jacksonville St.	11	290	141	48.62	11	3.79	1709	5.89	11	3.79	103.03
Duquesne	10	266	136	51.13	12	4.51	1514	5.69	11	4.14	103.53
Princeton	10	289	144	49.83	14	4.84	1852	6.41	9	3.11	104.22
La Salle	10	234	101	43.16	5	2.14	1410	6.03	11	4.70	105.05
Appalachian St.	15	423	216	51.06	16	3.78	2529	5.98	15	3.55	105.46
Florida A&M	11	253	121	47.83	10	3.95	1555	6.15	11	4.35	105.87
Miss. Valley St.	11	268	123	45.90	10	3.73	1686	6.29	12	4.48	106.06

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
San Diego	12	514	71	42.83
New Hampshire	13	459	63	35.31
Appalachian State	15	528	71	35.20
Southern Illinois	13	448	57	34.46
Northern Arizona	11	378	48	34.36
Coastal Carolina	12	411	54	34.25
Hampton	12	410	52	34.17
Central Conn. State	11	363	51	33.00
James Madison	12	389	51	32.42
Youngstown State	14	440	58	31.43
Northern Iowa	11	341	41	31.00
Delaware State	11	335	44	30.45
Western Illinois	11	333	45	30.27
Wofford	11	329	44	29.91
Davidson	10	295	38	29.50
Illinois State	13	377	50	29.00
Bethune-Cookman	11	314	43	28.55
Duquesne	10	285	37	28.50

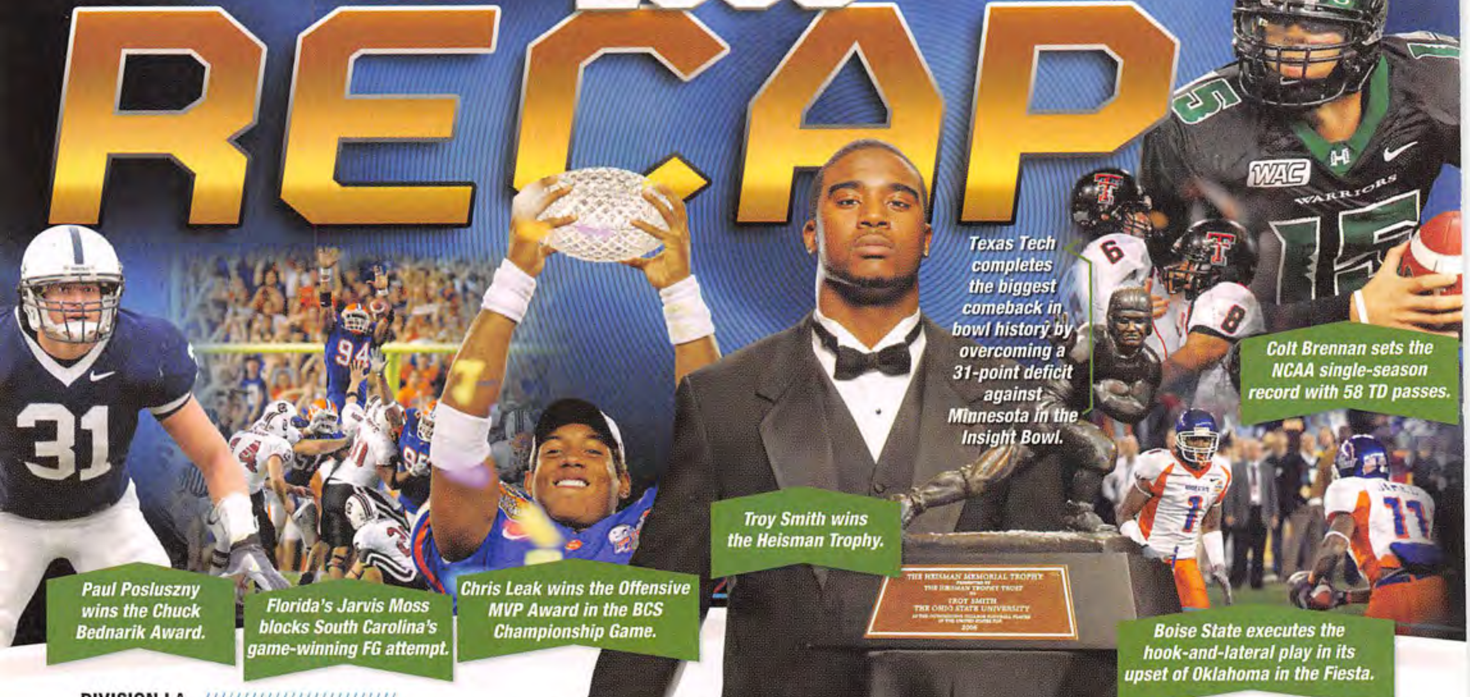
SCORING DEFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Monmouth	12	152	21	12.7
San Diego	12	155	22	12.9
Albany (N.Y.)	11	143	18	13.0
Maine	11	144	18	13.1
Massachusetts	15	200	26	13.3
Hampton	12	174	23	14.5
Robert Morris	11	161	19	14.6
Cal Poly	11	162	20	14.7
Appalachian State	15	223	27	14.9
Drake	11	168	22	15.3
Duquesne	10	155	20	15.5
Liberty	11	172	22	15.6
Tennessee-Martin	12	188	22	15.7
Montana	14	225	25	16.1
Columbia	10	163	21	16.3
James Madison	12	201	25	16.8
Iona	10	174	24	17.4
Central Conn. State	11	192	25	17.5

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

2006 RECAP

Results and statistics courtesy NCAA



DIVISION I-A

ATLANTIC COAST	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Atlantic								
Wake Forest	6	2	175	145	11	3	302	215
Boston College	5	3	189	133	10	3	338	204
Maryland	5	3	171	198	9	4	284	284
Clemson	5	3	209	136	8	5	425	210
Florida State	3	5	180	166	7	6	345	258
N.C. State	2	6	137	174	3	9	210	262
Coastal								
Georgia Tech	7	1	213	155	9	5	349	257
Virginia Tech	6	2	186	93	10	3	336	143
Virginia	4	4	124	116	5	7	181	214
Miami	3	5	127	127	7	6	255	201
North Carolina	2	6	109	221	3	9	216	366
Duke	0	8	124	280	0	12	179	406

BIG EAST	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Louisville	6	1	247	141	12	1	491	212
West Virginia	5	2	259	186	11	2	505	282
Rutgers	5	2	182	146	11	2	387	186
USF	4	3	145	133	9	4	299	220
Cincinnati	4	3	152	141	8	5	274	255
Pittsburgh	2	5	172	207	6	6	381	274
Connecticut	1	6	140	238	4	8	257	324
Syracuse	1	6	81	186	4	8	209	295

BIG TEN	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Ohio State	8	0	305	92	12	1	450	166
Wisconsin	7	1	245	116	12	1	380	157
Michigan	7	1	213	104	11	2	380	207
Penn State	5	3	135	117	9	4	290	187
Purdue	5	3	165	179	8	6	364	374
Minnesota	3	5	202	243	6	7	376	338
Indiana	3	5	179	302	5	7	277	394
Iowa	2	6	174	192	6	7	310	269
Northwestern	2	6	125	240	4	8	198	314
Michigan State	1	7	148	241	4	8	302	341
Illinois	1	7	155	220	2	10	235	321

BIG 12	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
North								
Nebraska	6	2	236	173	9	5	428	256
Missouri	4	4	214	178	8	5	391	254
Kansas State	4	4	188	218	7	6	296	309
Kansas	3	5	234	225	6	6	348	306
Colorado	2	6	160	199	2	10	196	267
Iowa State	1	7	120	262	4	8	226	369
South								
Oklahoma	7	1	208	121	11	3	424	242
Texas	6	2	270	173	10	3	467	238
Texas A&M	5	3	193	174	9	4	362	267
Texas Tech	4	4	240	235	8	5	422	326
Oklahoma State	3	5	264	243	7	6	458	333
Baylor	3	5	194	320	4	8	283	391

CONFERENCE USA	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
East								
Southern Miss	6	2	213	132	9	5	356	260
East Carolina	5	3	188	154	7	6	280	270
Marshall	4	4	233	222	5	7	311	351
UCF	3	5	173	211	4	8	232	345
UAB	2	6	177	220	3	9	225	297
Memphis	1	7	193	256	2	10	281	365
West								
Houston	7	1	275	173	10	4	462	329
Rice	6	2	255	244	7	6	350	432
Tulsa	5	3	226	155	8	5	360	262
SMU	4	4	216	212	6	6	325	294
UTEP	3	5	202	246	5	7	328	375
Tulane	2	6	130	256	4	8	224	400

MID-AMERICAN	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
East								
Ohio	7	1	197	119	9	5	276	253
Kent State	5	3	172	140	6	6	214	241
Akron	3	5	153	187	5	7	236	271
Bowling Green	3	5	166	214	4	8	234	340
Miami	2	6	164	187	2	10	222	304
Buffalo	1	7	201	314	2	10	220	431
West								
Central Michigan	7	1	235	145	10	4	416	312
Western Michigan	6	2	177	148	8	5	299	259
Northern Illinois	5	3	207	144	7	6	331	275
Ball State	5	3	225	184	5	7	326	309
Toledo	3	5	157	204	5	7	281	332
Eastern Michigan	1	7	106	174	1	11	167	322

MOUNTAIN WEST	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
BYU	8	0	317	113	11	2	478	191
TCU	6	2	237	113	11	2	380	160
Utah	5	3	232	171	8	5	363	258
Wyoming	5	3	164	187	6	6	258	264
New Mexico	4	4	189	207	6	7	284	312
Air Force	3	5	172	201	4	8	279	302
San Diego State	3	5	119	230	3	9	170	325
Colorado State	1	7	113	196	4	8	202	263
UNLV	1	7	158	283	2	10	238	382

PAC-10	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
USC	7	2	242	131	11	2	396	197
California	7	2	280	173	10	3	427	251
Oregon State	6	3	207	182	10	4	389	311
UCLA	5	4	198	169	7	6	299	259
Oregon	4	5	255	238	7	6	383	345
Arizona State	4	5	216	247	7	6	348	326
Washington State	4	5	208	212	6	6	295	277
Arizona	4	5	152	167	6	6	199	235
Washington	3	6	186	225	5	7	262	311
Stanford	1	8	74	274	1	11	127	377

SOUTHEASTERN	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
East								
Florida	7	1	178	126	13	1	416	189
Tennessee	5	3	212	172	9	4	362	254
Kentucky	4	4	163	207	8	5	347	369
Georgia	4	4	185	168	9	4	327	229
South Carolina	3	5	147	146	8	5	346	243
Vanderbilt	1	7	131	206	4	8	264	284
West								
Arkansas	7	1	221	134	10	4	404	256
Auburn	6	2	162	133	11	2	322	181
LSU	6	2	220	131	11	2	438	164
Alabama	2	6	133	175	6	7	298	250
Mississippi	2	6	123	182	4	8	188	275
Mississippi State	1	7	127	222	3	9	221	309

SUN BELT	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Troy	6	1	177	136	8	5	296	289
Middle Tennessee	6	1	204	92	7	6	296	302
Arkansas State	4	3	126	143	6	6	182	289
Florida Atlantic	4	3	129	100	5	7	181	299
Louisiana-Lafayette	3	4	126	151	6	6	248	296
Louisiana-Monroe	3	4	162	113	4	8	262	267
North Texas	2	5	76	147	3	9	154	304
Florida International	0	7	54	172	0	12	115	313

WESTERN ATHLETIC	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Boise State	8	0	333	160	13	0	516	229
Hawaii	7	1	438	196	11	3	656	337
San Jose State	5	3	192	172	9	4	324	270
Nevada	5	3	260	142	8	5	391	249
Fresno State	4	4	203	214	4	8	276	339
Idaho	3	5	149	272	4	8	203	417
New Mexico State	2	6	230	262	4	8	374	369
Louisiana Tech	1	7	153	345	3	10	242	542
Utah State	1	7	123	318	1	11	130	462

INDEPENDENTS	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Army	3	9	232	335
Navy	9	4	367	261
Notre Dame	10	3	403	310
Temple	1	11	131	496

DIVISION I-AA

ATLANTIC 10	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
North								
Massachusetts	8	0	222	89	13	2	413	200
New Hampshire	5	3	249	212	9	4	459	312
Maine	5	3	141	76	6	5	217	144
Northeastern	4	4	166	215	5	6	200	290
Rhode Island	2	6	137	252	4	7	214	332
Hofstra	1	7	131	174	2	9	185	246
South								
James Madison	7	1	289	135	9	3	389	201
Villanova	5	3	176	187	6	5	247	273
Towson	4	4	172	215	7	4	236	237
Richmond	3	5	153	171	6	5	272	199
Delaware	3	5	239	255	5	6	289	285
William & Mary	1	7	143	237	3	8	209	283

BIG SKY	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Montana	8	0	264	140	12	2	385	225
Montana State	6	2	170	145	8	5	261	286
Portland State	6	2	200	99	7	4	245	202
Northern Arizona	5	3	291	202	6	5	378	296
Sacramento State	4	4	142	196	4	7	168	288
Weber State	3	5	171	205	4	7	201	265
Eastern Washington	3	5	180	167	3	8	214	296
Idaho State	1	7	173	237	2	9	255	373
Northern Colorado	0	8	80	280	1	10	129	373

BIG SOUTH	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Coastal Carolina	4	0	142	94	9	3	411	297
Charleston Southern	2	2	92	101	9	2	300	199
Gardner-Webb	2	2	100	135	6	5	270	329
Liberty	2	2	122	107	6	5	259	172
VMI	0	4	112	131	1	10	199	433

GATEWAY	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
Youngstown State	6	1	227	126	11	3	440	323
Illinois State	5	2	212	150	9	4	377	262
Northern Iowa	5	2	208	162	7	4	341	249
Southern Illinois	4	3	218	162	9	4	448	256
Western Kentucky	4	3	173	154	6	5	258	263
Western Illinois	2	5	192	209	5	6	333	277
Missouri State	1	6	108	206	2	9	194	308
Indiana State	1	6	126	295	1	10	236	493

GREAT WEST	Conf W	Conf L	Conf PF	Conf PA	Overall W	Overall L	Overall PF	Overall PA
North Dakota State	4	0	151	73	10	1	374	147
South Dakota State	3	1	110	111	7	4	235	235
Cal Poly	2	2	83	111	7	4	248	162
UC Davis	1	3	89	80	6	5	309	227
Southern Utah	0	4	49	107	3	8	215	276

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CONFERENCE STANDINGS

IVY LEAGUE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Princeton	6	1	166	129	9	1	233	179
Yale	6	1	177	111	8	2	257	208
Harvard	4	3	177	138	7	3	267	192
Penn	3	4	153	129	5	5	228	191
Cornell	3	4	123	162	5	5	189	217
Columbia	2	5	66	135	5	5	150	163
Brown	2	5	140	157	3	7	225	241
Dartmouth	2	5	105	146	2	8	147	254

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Duquesne	3	1	126	48	7	3	285	155
Marist	3	1	110	88	4	7	200	291
Iona	2	2	77	67	3	7	147	174
Saint Peter's	1	2	69	85	2	7	126	310
La Salle	0	3	13	107	2	7	109	227

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Hampton	7	1	290	92	10	2	410	174
Delaware State	6	2	207	141	8	3	335	192
South Carolina State	6	2	228	137	7	4	298	204
Florida A&M	5	3	213	233	7	4	273	327
Morgan State	4	4	160	166	5	6	199	242
Howard	4	4	139	150	5	6	180	237
Bethune-Cookman	3	5	220	207	5	6	314	249
Norfolk State	1	7	159	242	4	7	251	289
North Carolina A&T	0	8	93	341	0	11	114	475

NORTHEAST

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Monmouth	6	1	177	83	10	1	279	125
Robert Morris	5	2	157	99	7	4	234	161
Albany	5	2	162	85	7	4	224	143
Stony Brook	5	2	220	144	5	6	242	278
Central Connecticut	4	3	210	134	8	3	363	192
Saint Francis (Pa.)	2	5	130	267	3	8	227	398
Sacred Heart	1	6	108	207	2	9	189	300
Wagner	0	7	63	208	4	7	180	233

OHIO VALLEY

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern Illinois	7	1	197	100	8	5	297	275
Tennessee-Martin	6	1	182	104	9	3	298	188
Tennessee State	5	2	159	122	6	5	241	242
Jacksonville State	5	3	256	131	6	5	285	193
Eastern Kentucky	5	3	195	168	6	5	238	240
Tennessee Tech	4	4	159	191	4	7	192	296
Southeast Missouri	2	6	114	208	4	7	203	307
Samford	1	7	106	195	3	8	166	250
Murray State	0	8	115	264	1	10	195	386

PATRIOT LEAGUE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Lafayette	5	1	211	113	6	6	316	270
Lehigh	5	1	189	102	6	5	299	222
Holy Cross	4	2	161	129	7	4	275	235
Bucknell	3	3	78	134	6	5	222	268
Colgate	3	3	159	126	4	7	246	243
Fordham	1	5	103	193	3	8	158	289
Georgetown	0	6	81	185	2	9	164	287

PIONEER FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
San Diego	7	0	349	87	11	1	514	155
Drake	6	1	186	103	9	2	303	168
Davidson	5	2	236	172	6	4	295	228
Jacksonville	4	3	173	192	4	6	206	323
Butler	2	5	82	210	3	8	156	331
Morehead State	2	5	147	196	2	9	218	322
Dayton	1	6	166	194	4	6	250	259
Valparaiso	1	6	104	289	3	8	212	378

SOUTHERN

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Appalachian State	7	0	255	98	14	1	528	223
Furman	6	1	172	130	8	4	295	255
Wofford	5	2	209	107	7	4	329	213
The Citadel	4	3	172	169	5	6	264	314
Elon	2	5	140	212	5	6	253	256
Chattanooga	2	5	125	223	3	8	201	304
Georgia Southern	2	5	139	154	3	8	235	260
Western Carolina	0	7	97	216	2	9	159	316

SOUTHLAND

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
McNeese State	5	1	157	111	7	5	303	271
Sam Houston State	4	2	155	126	6	5	263	285
Stephen F. Austin	4	2	129	88	4	7	204	232
Texas State	3	3	135	119	5	6	244	248
Nicholls State	2	4	65	117	4	7	189	228
Northwestern State	2	4	109	120	4	7	187	249
Southeastern La.	1	5	104	173	2	9	181	351

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East								
Alabama A&M	6	3	215	181	9	3	285	228
Jackson State	5	4	238	222	6	5	312	273
Alcorn State	5	4	234	230	6	5	263	260
Miss. Valley State	5	4	178	186	6	5	199	245
Alabama State	5	4	189	172	5	6	199	227
West								
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	7	2	269	216	8	4	333	305
Southern	4	5	226	224	5	6	276	280
Grambling State	3	6	247	212	3	8	295	281
Texas Southern	3	6	168	240	3	8	203	329
Prairie View A&M	2	7	119	200	3	7	156	200

INDEPENDENTS

	OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA
Austin Peay	3	8	245	271
Central Arkansas	8	3	192	176
Savannah State	2	9	108	379
Winston-Salem State	4	7	161	178

DIVISION II

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East								
Elizabeth City State	7	0	207	67	9	3	302	157
Virginia Union	5	2	181	160	7	3	275	248
Bowie State	3	4	92	88	5	5	164	129
Shaw	2	5	114	166	3	7	159	289
Virginia State	2	5	107	155	2	8	155	240
Saint Paul's	1	6	53	126	2	8	89	181
West								
N.C. Central	7	0	259	87	11	1	371	166
Johnson C. Smith	4	3	111	132	7	4	187	189
Saint Augustine's	4	3	100	118	4	6	143	202
Fayetteville State	2	5	134	160	3	7	163	198
Livingstone	1	6	80	156	1	9	100	234

GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Grand Valley State	10	0	371	146	15	0	533	233
Northwood	8	2	269	170	8	3	297	201
Ferris State	7	3	247	204	8	3	278	217
Saginaw Valley	6	4	269	241	6	4	269	241
Michigan Tech	6	4	236	192	6	4	236	192
Wayne State (Mich.)	6	4	277	238	6	5	287	255
Indianapolis	5	5	257	214	6	5	292	236
Hillsdale	5	5	244	237	5	6	258	261
Ashland	4	6	206	244	4	6	206	244
Northern Michigan	3	7	234	333	3	7	234	333
Mercyhurst	3	7	221	282	3	7	221	282
Findlay	1	9	92	218	2	9	117	242
Gannon	1	9	130	334	1	10	133	349

GULF SOUTH

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North Alabama	8	0	315	98	11	1	402	165
Delta State	7	1	250	84	12	3	436	201
Valdosta State	6	2	298	138	8	2	349	157
Henderson State	6	2	202	124	8	3	310	191
Arkansas Tech	5	3	193	214	7	3	259	267
Harding	5	3	175	188	6	4	244	248
West Alabama	3	5	142	202	6	5	301	235
Ouachita Baptist	1	7	173	328	2	8	242	370
Southern Arkansas	1	7	123	237	2	9	162	342
West Georgia	1	7	116	201	1	9	123	235
Arkansas-Monticello	1	7	103	276	1	10	124	355

LONE STAR

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North								
Southeastern Okla.	4	1	130	34	6	4	276	192
Southwestern Okla.	3	2	109	104	6	5	225	247
Northeastern State	3	2	92	132	4	6	230	304
Texas A&M-Commerce	2	3	50	60	5	5	125	151
Central Oklahoma	2	3	99	63	5	6	233	223
East Central	1	4	73	160	2	8	168	342
South								
West Texas A&M	5	1	181	147	11	2	390	269
Tarleton State	5	1	203	84	6	4	290	181
Midwestern State	4	2	204	150	10	3	466	310
Abilene Christian	4	2	212	161	8	3	390	243
Angelo State	2	4	99	170	3	7	147	245
Eastern New Mexico	1	5	77	150	3	7	187	240
Texas A&M-Kingsville	0	6	120	234	3	8	235	372

MID-AMERICA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
NW Missouri State	9	0	345	118	14	1	509	173
Pittsburg State	7	2	363	283	10	2	537	322
Missouri Western St.	7	2	236	168	9	3	321	239
Washburn	6	3	221	143	7	4	275	180
Truman State	6	3	223	226	6	5	252	284
Misouri Southern	3	6	196	235	5	6	254	284
Central Missouri	3	6	255	224	5	6	385	224
Emporia State	2	7	242	306	3	8	329	333
Fort Hays State	1	8	115	319	1	10	153	367
Southwest Baptist	1	8	216	390	1	10	260	477

NORTH CENTRAL

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North Dakota	7	1	227	146	11	2	411	244
Nebraska-Omaha	7	1	274	162	8	3	338	250
South Dakota	6	2	247	160	9	4	420	253
Minnesota Duluth	4	4	145	210	6	4	210	231
Central Washington	3	5	177	220	6	5	246	255
Augustana	3	5	180	211	5	6	255	281
Western Washington	3	5	147	212	5	6	203	267
Minnesota State	2	6	147	189	4	7	228	258
St. Cloud State	1	7	148	182	3	8	270	223

NORTHEAST-10

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Bryant	7	2	299	138	8	3	370	169
C.W. Post	7	2	212	122	7	3	212	146
Merrimack	7	2	233	151	8	4	275	250
Southern Connecticut	7	2	257	168	7	4	309	225
American International	6	3	169	134	6	4	179	148
Bentley	4	5	135	144	6	5	158	161
Assumption	4	5	153	190	4	6	153	234
Pace	2	7	44	154	3	7	71	168
Stonehill	1	8	77	162	1	9	84	186
Saint Anselm	0	9	85	301	0	10	85	355

NORTHERN SUN

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Bemidji State	8	0	264	124	9	3	349	218
Winona State	7	1	229	92	9	3	276	214
MSU Moorhead	4	4	162	172	6	5	250	210
Concordia St. Paul	4	4	208	152	5	6	253	272
Wayne State	4	4	164	167	5	6	206	237
Northern State	3	5	145	143	4	7	196	211
SW Minnesota State	3	5	141	167	4	7	221	213
Upper Iowa	3	5	194	213	3	8	248	331
Minnesota Crookston	0	8	33	310	0	11	39	471
Mary	0	0	0	0	6	4	204	183

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern								
Bloomsburg	6	0	210	107	12	2	372	248
West Chester	5	1	276	144	9	4	442	293
East Stroudsburg	4	2	260	143	7	4	385	235
Millersville	3	3	196	141	5	6	277	251
Kutztown	2	4	173	204	4	6	267	300
Cheyney	1	5	69	218	1	10	127	366
Mansfield	0	6	27	254	0	10	54	401
Western								
Indiana	5	1	137	95	8	2	261	144
California	5	1	178	76	8	3	341	158
Slippery Rock	4	2	146	97	7	4	294	201
Edinboro	3	3	159	112	6	5	279	172
Shippensburg	3	3	149	157	5	6	240	257
Lock Haven	1	5	77	187	2	9	125	367
Clarion	0	6	45	167	1	10	120	306

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Chadron State	8	0	321	113	12	1	479	199
Fort Lewis	6	2	224	173	7	4	260	279
Nebraska-Kearney	5	3	160	102	6	4	202	145
Adams State	4	4	168	164	6	5	271	209
New Mexico Highlands	3	5	134	187	6	5	218	210
Western New Mexico	3	5	135	134	5	5	215	163
Mesa State	3	5	139	184	4	7	201	263
Colorado Mines	2	6	122	212	4	7	243	277
Western State	2	6	76	210	3	8	153	290

SOUTH ATLANTIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Newberry	6	1	198	110	11	2	399	216
Wingate	5	2	161	143	8	3	254	192
Presbyterian	5	2	136	90	7	4	166	145
Carson-Newman	4	3	153	111	8	3	289	153
Catawba	3	4	126	151	6	4	213	177
Tusculum	3	4	112	148	6	5	200	180
Mars Hill	1	6	84	167	4	7	191	228
Lenoir-Rhyne	1	6	123	173	3	8	187	249

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Tuskegee	6	1	197	120	10	2	319	224
Albany State (Ga.)	6	1	106	43	7	4	174	130
Lane	5	2	174	171	8	3	285	249
Kentucky State	4	3	125	134	7	4	208	215
Stillman	4	3	120	106	6	4	209	163
Fort Valley State	4	3	107	149	5	6	169	247
Clark Atlanta	3	4	92	112	5	5	177	156
Benedict	2	5	110	144	3	7	131	168
Morehouse	1	6	156	247	3	8	213	331
Miles	0	7	145	106	0	10	176	161

WEST VIRGINIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Shepherd	7	0	215	50	11	1	333	88
West Liberty State	4	3	172	135	7	4	271	234
Glenville State	4	3	146	112	5	6	217	210
Charleston	4	3	123	156	5	6	194	267
Fairmont State	3	4	105	92	4	7	162	178
Concord	3	4	81	151	3	8	131	308
West Virginia State	2	5	113	165	5	6	160	217
West Virginia Wesleyan	1	6	72	166	2	8	113	220
Seton Hill	0	0	0	0	2	9	144	316

INDEPENDENTS

	OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA
Brevard	2	6	88	193
Central State	2	5	130	140
Chowan	0	10	133	186
Dixie State	1	8	118	166
Humboldt State	9	1	187	156
Kentucky Wesleyan	0	11	157	186
Lincoln (Mo.)	1	8	78	210
Missouri-Rolla	6	5	238	204
North Greenville (S.C.)	10	2	279	203
Panhandle State (Okla.)	0	10	105	572
St. Joseph's (Ind.)	8	3	334	188
Tiffin (Ohio)	10	0	189	143
Western Oregon	6	4	194	143

DIVISION III

AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Mary Hardin-Baylor	8	0	327	98	10	3	423	202
Hardin-Simmons	6	1	295	130	8	2	386	186
Texas Lutheran	4	4	165	212	6	4	224	221
Sul Ross State	4	4	193	264	5	4	228	270
Mississippi College	3	5	210	239	5	5	295	267
Howard Payne	3	5	231	287	5	5	254	296
East Texas Baptist	3	5	214	244	3	7	228	332
Louisiana College	2	5	181	238	4	5	272	283
McMurry	2	6	155	259	3	7	178	273

ATLANTIC CENTRAL

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Wesley College	4	0	134	41	13	1	517	204
Apprentice	2	2	58	94	7	3	217	143
Salisbury	2	2	80	49	6	5	252	169
Frostburg State	1	3	32	116	3	6	74	169
SUNY-Brockport	1	3	78	82	3	7	182	179

CENTENNIAL

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Dickinson	5	1	151	103	8	3	256	211
Ursinus	4	2	134	90	8	3	201	126
Gettysburg	3	3	130	167	5	5	243	268
Johns Hopkins	3	3	110	82	5	5	185	147
Muhlenberg	2	4	126	100	5	5	205	175
McDaniel	2	4	70	156	4	6	115	241
Franklin & Marshall	2	4	116	139	3	7	185	229

COLLEGE CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Wheaton (Ill.)	6	1	273	86	10	2	430	184
North Central	6	1	237	124	9	3	381	216
Augustana (Ill.)	6	1	162	99	7	3	229	147
Carthage	3	4	153	176	6	4	215	198
Elmhurst	3	4	116	147	6	4	206	173
Millikin	2	5	119	127	3	7	188	213
Illinois Wesleyan	2	5	139	182	3	7	188	250
North Park	0	7	60	318	1	9	101	371

EMPIRE EIGHT

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
St. John Fisher	5	1	266	94	12	2	529	192
Springfield	5	1	223	123	10	2	421	228
Alfred	4	2	188	136	8	3	297	212
Ithaca	4	2	172	97	7	3	294	146
Hartwick	2	4	148	223	4	6	257	314
Utica	1	5	54	204	3	7	112	278
Norwich	0	6	47	221	2	8	163	291

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

HEARTLAND COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Mt. St. Joseph	7	0	172	55	9	2	269	120
Franklin	6	1	198	88	9	1	312	177
Defiance	5	2	123	87	7	3	163	122
Hanover	4	3	127	110	4	6	170	198
Rose-Hulman	3	4	131	131	6	4	236	148
Bluffton	2	5	71	116	3	7	100	168
Anderson	1	6	98	226	2	8	152	293
Manchester	0	7	76	183	1	9	151	287

ILLINI-BADGER

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Concordia (Wis.)	7	0	248	65	10	1	353	140
Greenville	5	2	155	109	6	4	213	152
Aurora	5	2	158	117	5	5	171	198
Lakeland	5	2	183	90	5	5	221	217
Benedictine	3	4	101	104	4	6	123	182
MacMurray	2	5	158	215	3	7	199	296
Concordia (Ill.)	1	6	128	240	2	8	141	354
Eureka	0	7	89	280	0	10	107	381

IOWA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Central College	8	0	228	79	10	1	282	120
Wartburg College	6	2	170	95	8	2	228	109
Coe College	5	3	202	140	7	3	281	161
Dubuque	5	3	204	196	6	4	272	237
Buena Vista	4	4	139	163	4	6	156	196
Loras College	4	4	168	197	4	6	190	233
Simpson College	3	5	122	146	3	7	155	199
Luther College	1	7	182	222	2	8	258	257
Cornell College	0	8	69	246	2	8	131	291

LIBERTY

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Hobart	5	1	145	109	8	2	246	198
Union	5	1	175	116	7	3	288	231
Rochester	4	2	156	130	7	4	312	273
Rensselaer	3	3	170	146	7	3	313	176
St. Lawrence	3	3	154	140	5	4	206	190
Merchant Marine	1	5	134	191	3	7	197	251
Worcester Polytechnic	0	6	69	171	3	6	207	227

MICHIGAN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Hope	7	0	209	113	7	4	257	244
Alma	5	2	294	211	6	4	382	315
Olivet	5	2	138	118	6	4	193	186
Adrian	4	3	199	149	5	5	240	192
Albion	3	4	188	168	5	5	250	217
Kalamazoo	2	5	157	211	2	7	185	264
Tri-State	2	5	170	228	2	8	230	302
Wisconsin Lutheran	0	7	89	227	0	10	96	369

MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES COLLEGIATE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Wilkes	9	0	227	80	11	1	314	104
Delaware Valley	8	2	179	85	8	3	188	100
Widener	6	3	207	143	7	4	235	167
King's	6	3	161	127	6	5	161	194
Lebanon Valley	5	4	222	169	6	4	235	181
Lycoming	4	5	156	188	4	5	156	188
Moravian	4	5	167	207	4	6	177	231
Albright	2	7	224	289	2	8	237	321
FDU-Florham	2	7	178	240	2	8	192	260
Juniata	2	7	150	246	2	8	150	260
Susquehanna	2	7	121	218	2	8	121	224

MIDWEST

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
St. Norbert	9	0	374	96	10	1	422	168
Ripon College	7	2	291	173	7	3	291	230
Monmouth College	7	2	259	131	7	3	259	151
Illinois College	6	3	181	190	6	4	201	214
Lake Forest College	5	4	147	133	5	5	153	154
Lawrence	4	5	148	217	5	5	169	225
Carroll College	4	5	190	182	4	6	196	192
Grinnell College	2	7	191	373	2	8	222	430
Knox College	1	8	164	260	2	8	187	260
Beloit College	0	9	85	275	1	9	95	275

MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Saint John's	7	1	270	101	11	2	382	154
Bethel	7	1	238	94	9	2	295	139
St. Olaf College	6	2	322	168	8	2	388	198
St. Thomas	5	3	183	139	6	4	209	163
Gustavus Adolphus	4	4	109	181	6	4	195	188
Concordia College	3	5	128	163	4	6	176	212
Carleton College	2	6	139	167	4	6	241	181
Hamline	1	7	64	237	3	7	137	251
Augsburg College	1	7	149	352	1	9	187	421

NEW ENGLAND FOOTBALL

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Bogan								
Coast Guard	7	0	190	99	8	3	282	202
Bridgewater State	6	1	209	118	8	2	285	169
Maine Maritime	5	2	129	101	6	3	188	143
Fitchburg State	3	4	127	100	4	5	160	147
Worcester State	3	4	124	133	4	6	167	196
Mass. Maritime	2	5	85	180	3	6	104	214
Framingham State	1	6	96	223	1	8	122	275
Westfield State	1	6	113	119	1	8	116	177
Boyd								
Curry	7	0	258	110	11	1	364	187
Endicott	5	2	134	71	6	4	203	128
Nichols	4	3	129	132	5	4	173	160
UMass-Dartmouth	4	3	170	136	5	4	211	176
Plymouth State	4	3	155	124	4	5	176	178
Western New England	3	4	121	126	5	4	180	155
MIT	1	6	126	246	2	7	147	279
Salve Regina	0	7	60	208	1	8	95	251

NEW ENGLAND SMALL COLLEGE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Williams	8	0	276	74	8	0	276	74
Trinity	7	1	206	54	7	1	206	54
Middlebury	6	2	103	91	6	2	103	91
Amherst	5	3	146	90	5	3	146	90
Tufts	4	4	81	107	4	4	81	107
Wesleyan	3	5	91	163	3	5	91	163
Colby	2	6	57	142	2	6	57	142
Bowdoin	2	6	49	151	2	6	49	151
Hamilton	2	6	24	82	2	6	24	82
Bates	1	7	87	166	1	7	87	166

NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Rowan	6	1	161	83	9	3	234	175
SUNY-Cortland	6	1	215	100	9	2	314	170
Montclair State	5	2	163	132	7	3	226	169
Kean	4	3	159	120	7	4	273	169
The College of N.J.	2	5	104	142	4	6	162	201
Buffalo State	2	5	149	226	3	7	190	325
Western Connecticut	2	5	117	178	5	5	193	214
William Paterson	1	6	112	199	1	9	159	285

NORTH COAST ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Wabash	6	1	257	133	8	2	356	229
Wittenberg	6	1	177	96	7	4	268	244
Wooster	5	2	213	109	8	2	295	148
Allegheny	4	3	206	178	6	4	303	217
Oberlin	4	3	183	199	5	5	267	295
Kenyon	3	4	274	293	4	6	354	401
Ohio Wesleyan	3	4	193	160	3	7	277	266
Denison	3	4	141	175	3	7	183	253
Earlham	1	6	161	225	3	7	259	308
Hiram	0	7	71	308	0	10	91	429

NORTHWEST

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Whitworth	6	0	204	71	11	1	330	161
Linfield	5	1	202	72	6	3	259	150
Pacific Lutheran	4	2	176	115	4	5	232	198
Puget Sound	3	3	224	165	7	3	327	230
Willamette	2	4	163	191	2	7	186	294
Menlo	1	5	100	198	4	6	198	252
Lewis & Clark	0	6	66	323	0	9	96	456

OHIO ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Mount Union	9	0	433	73	15	0	659	127
Capital	8	1	310	107	11	2	427	148
Baldwin-Wallace	6	3	197	129	7	3	214	136
Marietta	5	4	200	222	6	4	228	242
Ohio Northern	5	4	214	114	6	4	242	128
John Carroll	5	4	210	116	5	5	223	146
Otterbein	3	6	133	247	4	6	158	260
Wilmington	3	6	102	257	3	7	102	281
Muskingum	1	8	62	308	2	8	107	320
Heidelberg	0	9	76	363	0	10	110	411

OLD DOMINION ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Washington & Lee	5	1	155	61	7	4	216	173
Bridgewater	4	2	158	112	8	2	317	160
Emory & Henry	4	2	134	122	6	4	202	194
Hampden-Sydney	4	2	176	165	4	6	262	281
Guilford	3	3	166	159	6	4	312	289
Catholic	1	5	93	168	3	7	171	248
Randolph-Macon	0	6	75	170	2	8	133	236

PRESIDENTS' ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Washington & Jefferson	6	0	234	63	10	2	392	171
Waynesburg	5	1	151	112	6	4	206	211
Thiel (Pa.)	4	2	178	109	5	5	212	161
Thomas More	2	4	122	116	6	4	201	172
Bethany	2	4	90	238	4	6	192	362
Grove City	1	5	105	176	3	7	180	281
Westminster (Pa.)	1	5	126	192	2	8	175	298

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Occidental	6	0	215	117	9	0	353	179
Redlands	4	2	146	114	4	5	166	190
Cal Lutheran	3	3	191	128	6	3	268	172
La Verne	3	3	113	175	3	6	162	275
Claremont-M-S	2	4	108	167	4	5	170	219
Pomona-Pitzer	2	4	135	162	3	6	214	237
Whittier	1	5	124	169	2	7	162	226

SOUTHERN COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Millsaps	6	0	178	66	7	4	330	225
Trinity (Texas)	5	1	151	80	8	2	260	117
DePauw	3	3	128	129	6	4	227	185
Rhodes	3	3	74	106	6	4	152	140
Centre	2	4	102	133	5	5	196	187
Austin	2	4	117	153	4	6	141	235
Sewanee	0	6	76	159	2	8	165	267

RICK SCUTERI / US PRESSWIRE

BOWL GAMES RECAP

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

FIESTA BOWL
Boise State 43, Oklahoma 42 (OT)

ORANGE BOWL
Louisville 24, Wake Forest 13

ROSE BOWL
USC 32, Michigan 18

SUGAR BOWL
LSU 41, Notre Dame 14

Alamo Bowl	Texas 26, Iowa 24
Armed Forces Bowl	Utah 25, Tulsa 13
Capital One Bowl	Wisconsin 17, Arkansas 14
Champs Sports Bowl	Maryland 24, Purdue 7
Cotton Bowl	Auburn 17, Nebraska 14
Emerald Bowl	Florida State 44, UCLA 27
Gator Bowl	West Virginia 38, Georgia Tech 35
GMAC Bowl	Southern Miss 28, Ohio 7
Hawaii Bowl	Hawaii 41, Arizona State 24
Holiday Bowl	California 45, Texas A&M 10
Independence Bowl	Oklahoma State 34, Alabama 31
International Bowl	Cincinnati 27, Western Michigan 24
Insight Bowl	Texas Tech 44, Minnesota 41 (OT)
Las Vegas Bowl	BYU 38, Oregon 8
Liberty Bowl	South Carolina 44, Houston 36
MPC Computers Bowl	Miami 21, Nevada 20
Meineke Car Care Bowl	Boston College 25, Navy 24
Motor City Bowl	Central Michigan 31, Middle Tennessee 14
Music City Bowl	Kentucky 28, Clemson 20
New Mexico Bowl	San Jose State 20, New Mexico 12
New Orleans Bowl	Troy 41, Rice 17
Outback Bowl	Penn State 20, Tennessee 10
Papajohns.com Bowl	South Florida 24, East Carolina 7
Chick-fil-a Bowl	Georgia 31, Virginia Tech 24
Poinsettia Bowl	TCU 37, Northern Illinois 7
Sun Bowl	Oregon State 39, Missouri 38
Texas Bowl	Rutgers 37, Kansas State 10

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Carnegie Mellon	3	0	57	17	11	1	308	119
Washington (Mo.)	2	1	46	23	6	4	201	152
Case	1	2	26	42	5	5	199	178
Chicago	0	3	16	63	4	5	193	156

UPPER MIDWEST ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North								
Minnesota-Morris	7	0	265	70	7	3	308	182
Northwestern College	6	1	178	90	7	3	243	172
Crown College	2	5	86	152	3	6	135	206
Trinity Bible	2	5	53	252	2	6	72	278
Martin Luther	2	5	123	124	2	8	147	222
South								
Rockford College	5	2	230	80	7	3	291	120
Maranatha Baptist	4	3	175	84	6	3	215	110
Westminster College	4	3	166	85	4	5	174	166
Blackburn College	3	4	100	178	3	7	122	269
Principia College	0	7	38	299	0	9	64	377

USA SOUTH ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Christopher Newport	6	1	244	118	8	3	313	204
Averett	6	1	242	165	7	3	320	301
N.C. Wesleyan	5	2	256	151	6	4	339	203
Maryville	4	3	262	249	5	5	331	289
Methodist	2	5	106	132	4	6	164	174
Greensboro	2	5	130	252	3	7	190	342
Ferrum	2	5	140	198	2	7	202	277
Shenandoah	1	6	62	177	2	8	88	234

WISCONSIN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Wis.-Whitewater	7	0	273	63	14	1	542	181
Wis.-La Crosse	6	1	218	145	9	2	311	203
Wis.-Stevens Point	4	3	142	175	6	4	239	231
Wis.-Oshkosh	3	4	133	138	5	5	243	181
Wis.-Platteville	3	4	157	180	5	5	222	242
Wis.-Eau Claire	2	5	102	145	3	7	163	193
Wis.-River Falls	2	5	90	201	3	7	131	322
Wis.-Stout	1	6	115	183	3	7	189	249

INDEPENDENTS

	OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA
Huntingdon	6	4	249	209
Husson	3	1	46	56
Mount Ida	5	4	123	175
Colorado College	5	5	215	213
Chapman	4	5	191	205
Macalester	2	7	136	178
SUNY-Maritime	1	6	89	99
Morrisville State	1	8	94	318
Becker	0	9	108	333
LaGrange	0	10	118	215

NAIA

CENTRAL STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Northwestern Okla. St.	4	0	119	20	6	4	258	201
Texas	3	1	82	53	4	7	198	289
South. Nazarene (Okla.)	2	2	77	79	6	4	196	137
Peru State (Neb.)	1	3	87	98	6	5	276	207
Bacone (Okla.)	0	4	19	131	1	9	83	311

DAKOTA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Black Hills State (S.D.)	7	0	212	47	8	3	231	114
Jamestown (N.D.)	5	2	188	46	8	3	300	111
Dickinson State (N.D.)	4	2	124	66	6	4	227	122
Valley City St. (N.D.)	4	3	159	107	6	4	244	155
Minot State (N.D.)	4	3	123	58	4	6	157	121
Dakota State (S.D.)	2	5	118	169	3	8	163	323
Mayville State (S.D.)	1	6	46	287	1	9	63	416
South Dakota Tech	0	6	21	211	1	9	55	346

FRONTIER CONFERENCE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Carroll (Mont.)	9	1	281	52	11	2	336	76
Montana St.-Northern	8	2	240	89	9	3	281	130
Montana Tech	6	4	168	132	6	5	175	178
Eastern Oregon	5	5	190	267	6	5	199	270
Rocky Mtn. (Mont.)	1	9	142	330	2	9	169	353
Montana-Western	1	9	167	318	1	9	167	318

GREAT PLAINS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Sioux Falls (S.D.)	10	0	408	48	14	0	541	102
Northwestern (Iowa)	9	1	392	98	11	2	479	148
Morningside (Iowa)	8	2	242	121	9	3	287	189
Nebraska Wesleyan	7	3	190	197	7	3	190	197
Dana (Neb.)	5	5	180	209	6	5	231	223
Briar Cliff (Iowa)	4	6	108	287	5	6	136	300
Hastings (Neb.)	4	6	169	196	4	6	169	196
Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)	4	6	101	218	4	6	101	218
Concordia (Neb.)	2	8	174	285	2	8	174	285
Midland Luth. (Neb.)	1	9	136	254	2	9	166	261
Doane (Neb.)	1	9	112	299	1	9	112	299

HEART OF AMERICA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Missouri Valley	10	0	293	112	13	0	390	159
Benedictine (Kan.)	7	3	203	161	8	3	209	161
MidAmerica Nazarene	7	3	305	220	7	3	305	220
Graceland (Iowa)	6	4	300	237	6	4	300	237
William Jewell (Mo.)	5	5	182	196	5	5	182	196
Lindenwood (Mo.)	5	5	227	214	5	7	257	255
Baker (Kan.)	4	6	160	200	4	6	160	200
Evangel (Mo.)	4	6	181	200	4	6	181	200
Culver-Stockton (Mo.)	3	7	118	224	3	8	124	264
Avila (Mo.)	2	8	99	211	3	8	120	224
Central Methodist (Mo.)	2	8	161	254	3	8	181	262

KANSAS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Bethel	8	1	204	123	9	2	271	160
Friends	8	1	266	48	9	2	273	86
Kansas Wesleyan	7	2	226	127	8	2	268	134
Sterling	7	2	257	121	7	3	257	127
Tabor	5	4	184	156	6	4	214	170
McPherson	3	6	72	234	3	7	75	257
Saint Mary	2	7	97	184	3	7	118	191
Bethany	2	7	118	226	2	8	136	261
Southwestern	2	7	128	210	2	8	152	238
Ottawa	1	8	116	239	1	9	134	277

MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East								
Georgetown (Ky.)	6	1	309	117	9	2	448	190
Cumberlands (Ky.)	3	1	83	85	6	4	186	226
Virginia-Wise	3	3	199	193	8	3	444	309
Pikeville (Ky.)	3	3	142	170	4	6	205	326
West Virginia Tech	1	4	92	172	1	10	105	469
Union (Ky.)	1	6	115	173	2	8	164	226
West								
Bethel (Tenn.)	6	0	243	110	10	3	476	190
Belhaven (Miss.)	4	2	186	174	6	5	333	328
Lambuth (Tenn.)	3	3	152	173	4	7	222	329
Shorter (Ga.)	3	4	181	171	6	5	307	198
Cumberland (Tenn.)	1	4	75	145	3	7	242	297
Campbellsville (Ky.)	0	3	30	124	2	8	151	349

MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC. - MIDEAST

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Saint Francis (Ind.)	6	0	181	69	13	1	553	164
Walsh (Ohio)	4	2	123	93	9	3	271	171
Ohio Dominican	4	2	172	104	7	3	308	176
Malone (Ohio)	4	2	127	136	7	4	238	267
Geneva (Pa.)	2	4	107	121	4	5	143	148
Urbana (Ohio)	2	5	126	145	5	6	239	225
Taylor (Ind.)	0	6	41	183	1	9	67	255

MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC. - MIDWEST

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
St. Ambrose (Iowa)	8	0	284	119	10	1	356	179
Saint Xavier (Ill.)	7	1	235	99	10	3	380	207
McKendree (Ill.)	5	3	293	90	5	4	312	114
William Penn (Iowa)	5	3	182	176	5	6	209	274
Quincy (Ill.)	4	4	149	135	6	5	231	200
Olivet Nazerene (Ill.)	3	5	119	178	4	7	172	249
Trinity Int'l (Ill.)	3	5	99	167	4	7	145	247
St. Francis (Ill.)	1	7	82	256	1	9	92	321
Iowa Wesleyan	0	8	77	300	1	9	101	336

INDEPENDENTS

	OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA
Langston (Okla.)	5	4	329	207
Webber International (Fla.)	5	5	199	177
Southern Oregon	3	6	160	237
Azusa Pacific (Calif.)	3	7	162	243
SW Assemblies of God (Texas)	2	8	110	452
Haskell Indian Nations (Kan.)	2	9	112	268
Waldorf (Iowa)	1	8	88	263
Edward Waters (Fla.)	1	9	93	297

Butch Davis, UNC

I-A COACHING CHANGES FOR 2007

SCHOOL	FORMER COACH	NEW COACH
Air Force	Fisher DeBerry	**Troy Calhoun**
Alabama	Mike Shula	**Nick Saban**
Arizona State	Dirk Koetter	**Dennis Erickson**
Army	Bobby Ross	**Stan Brock**
Boston College	Tom O'Brien	**Jeff Jagodzinski**
Central Michigan	Brian Kelly	**Butch Jones**
Cincinnati	Mark Dantonio	**Brian Kelly**
Florida International	Don Strock	**Mario Cristobal**
Idaho	Dennis Erickson	**Robb Akey**
Iowa State	Dan McCarney	**Gene Chizik**
Louisiana Tech	Jack Bicknell	**Derek Dooley**
Louisville	Bobby Petrino	**Steve Kragthorpe**
Miami	Larry Coker	**Randy Shannon**
Michigan State	John L. Smith	**Mark Dantonio**
Minnesota	Glen Mason	**Tim Brewster**
North Carolina	John Bunting	**Butch Davis**
North Carolina State	Chuck Amato	**Tom O'Brien**
North Texas	Darrell Dickey	**Todd Dodge**
Rice	Todd Graham	**David Bailiff**
Stanford	Walt Harris	**Jim Harbaugh**
Tulane	Chris Scelfo	**Bob Toledo**
Tulsa	Steve Kragthorpe	**Todd Graham**
UAB	Watson Brown	**Neil Callaway**

DIVISION I-AA PLAYOFFS

>> FIRST ROUND

Appalachian State 45	Coastal Carolina 28
Montana State 31	Furman 7
Illinois State 24	Eastern Illinois 13
Youngstown State 35	James Madison 31
Massachusetts 35	Lafayette 14
New Hampshire 41	Hampton 38
Southern Illinois 36	Tennessee-Martin 30
Montana 31	McNeese State 6

>> QUARTERFINALS

Appalachian State 38	Montana State 17
Youngstown State 28	Illinois State 21
Massachusetts 24	New Hampshire 17
Montana 20	Southern Illinois 3

>> SEMIFINALS

Appalachian State 49	Youngstown State 24
Massachusetts 19	Montana 17

>> CHAMPIONSHIP

Appalachian State 28	**Massachusetts 17**

Kevin Richardson, Appalachian State

DIVISION II PLAYOFFS

>> FIRST ROUND

South Dakota 31	Northwood 28
North Dakota 42	Winona State 0
Delta State 17	Elizabeth City 10
Newberry 34	Albany State 28
Merrimack 28	Southern Connecticut St. 26
West Chester 31	Bryant 29
Midwestern State 28	Missouri Western State 26
West Texas A&M 30	Abilene Christian 27

>> SECOND ROUND

Grand Valley State 35	South Dakota 17
North Dakota 38	Nebraska-Omaha 35
Delta State 24	North Carolina Central 17
North Alabama 38	Newberry 20
Shepherd 31	Merrimack 7
Bloomsburg 21	West Chester 20
Northwest Missouri State 27	Midwestern State 0
Chadron State 43	West Texas A&M 17

>> QUARTERFINALS

Grand Valley State 30	North Dakota 20
Delta State 27	North Alabama 10
Bloomsburg 24	Shepherd 21
Northwest Missouri State 28	Chadron State 21

>> SEMIFINALS

Grand Valley State 49	Delta State 30
Northwest Missouri State 33	Bloomsburg 3

>> CHAMPIONSHIP

Grand Valley State 17	**Northwest Missouri St. 14**

DIVISION III PLAYOFFS

>> FIRST ROUND

Mount Union 49	Hope 0
Wheaton (Ill.) 42	Mt. St. Joseph 28
North Central (Ill.) 35	Concordia (Wis.) 6
Capital 32	Wittenberg 14
Wilkes 42	Washington & Lee 0
Rowan 20	Hobart 18
St. John Fisher 49	Union 21
Springfield 42	Curry 14
Wesley 49	Dickinson 21
Carnegie Mellon 21	Millsaps 0
Washington & Jefferson 27	Christopher Newport 23
Mary Hardin-Baylor 33	Hardin-Simmons 21
Wisconsin-Whitewater 59	St. Norbert 17
Wisconsin-La Crosse 28	Bethel (Minn.) 21
Whitworth 27	Occidental 23
St. John's (Minn.) 21	Central (Iowa) 13

>> SECOND ROUND

Mount Union 35	Wheaton 3
Capital 41	North Central 13
Rowan 21	Wilkes 14
St. John Fisher 27	Springfield 21
Wesley 37	Carnegie Mellon 0
Mary Hardin-Baylor 30	Washington & Jefferson 27
Wisconsin-Whitewater 24	Wisconsin-La Crosse 21
St. John's 21	Whitworth 3

>> QUARTERFINALS

Mount Union 17	Capital 14
St. John Fisher 31	Rowan 0
Wesley 34	Mary Hardin-Baylor 20
Wisconsin-Whitewater 17	St. John's 14

>> SEMIFINALS

Mount Union 26	St. John Fisher 14
Wisconsin-Whitewater 44	Wesley 7

>> CHAMPIONSHIP

Mount Union 35	**Wisconsin-Whitewater 16**

NAIA PLAYOFFS

>> FIRST ROUND

Saint Francis (Ind.) 42	Walsh (Ohio) 3
Northwestern Iowa 17	Black Hills State (S.D.) 10
Saint Xavier (Ill.) 42	Georgetown (Ky.) 28
Carroll (Mont.) 20	Montana State Northern 7
Sioux Falls (S.D.) 48	Jamestown (N.D.) 10
Morningside (Iowa) 38	Saint Ambrose (Iowa) 31
Bethel (Tenn.) 35	Friends (Kan.) 0
Missouri Valley 31	Bethel (Kan.) 14

>> QUARTERFINALS

Saint Francis 42	Bethel 35
Sioux Falls 37	Morningside 7
Saint Xavier 14	Carroll 7
Missouri Valley 33	Northwestern Iowa 26

>> SEMIFINALS

Saint Francis 49	Saint Xavier 20
Sioux Falls 25	Missouri Valley 18

>> CHAMPIONSHIP

Sioux Falls 23	**Saint Francis 19**

TOP TO BOTTOM: ANDREW SYNOWIEZ, MARVIN GENTRY / US PRESSWIRE

SCHEDULES

—compiled by STATS INC. *bowl games not included in 2006 records

AIR FORCE
Air Force Academy, CO

S. 1	South Carolina State	
S. 8	@UTAH	14-17
S. 13	TCU	14-38
S. 22	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-33
S. 29	@NAVY	17-24
O. 6	UNLV	39-42
O. 13	@COLORADO STATE	24-21
O. 20	Wyoming	31-24
O. 25	@NEW MEXICO	24-7
N. 3	Army	43-7
N. 10	@NOTRE DAME	17-39
N. 17	San Diego State	12-19

Coach: *Troy Calhoun* **Colors:** *Silver & Blue*
Nickname: *Falcons* **2006 Record:** *4-8*

AKRON
Akron, OH

S. 1	Army*	
S. 8	@OHIO STATE	
S. 15	@INDIANA	
S. 22	Kent State	15-37
S. 29	@CONNECTICUT	
O. 6	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	0-17
O. 13	Temple	
O. 27	@BUFFALO	31-16
N. 2	@BOWLING GREEN	35-28
N. 7	Ohio	7-17
N. 14	@MIAMI (OH)	24-13
N. 23	Central Michigan	21-24

** At Cleveland, OH*
Coach: *J.D. Brookhart* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Zips* **2006 Record:** *5-7*

ALABAMA
Tuscaloosa, AL

S. 1	Western Carolina	
S. 8	@VANDERBILT	13-10
S. 15	Arkansas	23-24 (OT)
S. 22	Georgia	
S. 29	@FLORIDA STATE*	
O. 6	Houston	
O. 13	@MISSISSIPPI	26-23 (OT)
O. 20	Tennessee	13-16
N. 3	LSU	14-28
N. 10	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	16-24
N. 17	Louisiana-Monroe	41-7
N. 24	@AUBURN	15-22

** At Jacksonville, FL*
Coach: *Nick Saban* **Colors:** *Crimson & White*
Nickname: *Crimson Tide* **2006 Record:** *6-6*

ALABAMA A&M
Normal, AL

S. 1	@TENNESSEE STATE	27-20
S. 8	Clark Atlanta	
S. 15	Mississippi Valley State	20-23
S. 22	@GRAMBLING STATE	30-27 (OT)
S. 29	Texas Southern	19-14
O. 6	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	28-21
O. 18	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	22-13
O. 27	Alabama State*	21-13
N. 3	Jackson State	34-21
N. 10	@ALCORN STATE	35-26
N. 17	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	7-13

** At Birmingham, AL*
Coach: *Anthony Jones* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2006 Record:** *9-3*

ALABAMA STATE
Montgomery, AL

S. 1	Jacksonville State	
S. 8	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	9-10
S. 15	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	31-13
S. 22	Alcorn State	33-28
S. 29	Southern University*	20-38
O. 6	@JACKSON STATE	13-19
O. 13	Prairie View A&M	10-7
O. 27	@ALABAMA A&M**	13-21
N. 3	Grambling State	35-16
N. 10	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	25-20
N. 22	Tuskegee	10-17

** At Mobile, AL*
*** At Birmingham, AL*
Coach: *Reggie Barlow* **Colors:** *Black & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Hornets* **2006 Record:** *5-6*

ALBANY
Albany, NY

S. 1	@COLGATE	
S. 8	@FORDHAM	7-9
S. 15	Hofstra	
S. 22	@MONTANA	
O. 6	Stony Brook	21-33
O. 13	Sacred Heart	24-13
O. 20	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	48-0
O. 27	@WAGNER	34-0
N. 3	Robert Morris	16-6
N. 10	@MONMOUTH	0-19
N. 17	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	19-14

Coach: *Bob Ford* **Colors:** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Great Danes* **2006 Record:** *7-4*

ALCORN STATE
Alcorn State, MS

S. 1	Grambling State	21-14
S. 8	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	14-42
S. 15	@UAB	
S. 22	@ALABAMA STATE	28-33
S. 29	Morehouse*	23-6
O. 6	Prairie View A&M	17-14
O. 13	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	45-23
O. 20	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	26-10
N. 3	Mississippi Valley State	25-28
N. 10	Alabama A&M	26-35
N. 17	@JACKSON STATE	32-31

** At Las Vegas, NV*
Coach: *Dr. Johnny Thomas*
Colors: *Alcorn Purple & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Braves* **2006 Record:** *6-5*

APPALACHIAN STATE
Boone, NC

S. 1	@MICHIGAN	
S. 8	Lenoir-Rhyne	
S. 15	Northern Arizona	
S. 22	@WOFFORD	14-7
S. 29	@ELON	45-21
O. 6	Gardner-Webb	41-6
O. 20	Georgia Southern	27-20 (OT)
O. 27	@FURMAN	40-7
N. 3	@CITADEL	42-13
N. 10	Western Carolina	31-9
N. 17	Chattanooga	56-21

Coach: *Jerry Moore* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Mountaineers* **2006 Record:** *14-1*

ARIZONA
Tucson, AZ

S. 1	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	16-13
S. 8	Northern Arizona	
S. 15	New Mexico	
S. 22	@CALIFORNIA	24-20
S. 29	Washington State	27-17
O. 6	@OREGON STATE	10-17
O. 13	@USC	3-20
O. 20	Stanford	20-7
O. 27	@WASHINGTON	10-21
N. 3	UCLA	7-27
N. 15	Oregon	37-10
D. 1	@ARIZONA STATE	14-28

Coach: *Mike Stoops* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Navy*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2006 Record:** *6-6*

ARIZONA STATE
Tempe, AZ

S. 1	San Jose State	
S. 8	@COLORADO	21-3
S. 15	San Diego State	
S. 22	Oregon State	10-44
S. 29	@STANFORD	38-3
O. 6	@WASHINGTON STATE	47-14
O. 13	Washington	26-23 (OT)
O. 27	California	21-49
N. 3	Oregon	13-48
N. 10	@UCLA	12-24
N. 22	USC	21-28
D. 1	Arizona	28-14

Coach: *Dennis Erickson* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Sun Devils* **2006 Record:** *7-5*

ARKANSAS
Fayetteville, AR

S. 1	Troy	
S. 15	@ALABAMA	24-23 (OT)
S. 22	Kentucky	
S. 29	North Texas	
O. 6	Chattanooga*	
O. 13	Auburn	27-10
O. 20	@MISSISSIPPI	38-3
O. 27	Florida International	
N. 3	South Carolina	26-20
N. 10	@TENNESSEE	31-14
N. 17	Mississippi State*	28-14
N. 24	@LSU	26-31

** At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Houston Nutt* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Razorbacks* **2006 Record:** *10-3*

ARKANSAS STATE
State University, AR

S. 1	@TEXAS	
S. 8	Memphis	26-23
S. 15	Southern Methodist	9-55
S. 22	@TENNESSEE	
O. 6	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	10-6
O. 13	Louisiana-Lafayette	13-28
O. 20	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	10-38
O. 27	Troy	33-26
N. 3	Florida International	31-6
N. 10	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	0-29
N. 17	North Texas	29-10
N. 24	@SOUTHERN MISS	

Coach: *Steve Roberts* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Indians* **2006 Record:** *6-6*

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
Pine Bluff, AR

S. 1	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	0-10
S. 8	@ALCORN STATE	42-14
S. 15	Alabama State	13-31
S. 22	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	16-48
S. 29	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
O. 13	Grambling State*	33-28
O. 18	@ALABAMA A&M	13-22
O. 27	@JACKSON STATE	43-40
N. 3	Prairie View A&M	28-21
N. 10	Southern University	45-20
N. 17	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	42-31

** At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Maurice Forte* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Lions* **2006 Record:** *8-4*

ARMY
West Point, NY

S. 1	@AKRON*	
S. 8	Rhode Island	
S. 15	@WAKE FOREST	
S. 22	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
S. 29	Temple	
O. 6	Tulane	28-42
O. 13	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
O. 20	@GEORGIA TECH	
N. 3	@AIR FORCE	7-43
N. 9	Rutgers	
N. 17	Tulsa	
D. 1	Navy**	14-26

** At Cleveland, OH*
*** At Baltimore, MD*
Coach: *Stan Brock* **Colors:** *Black, Gold & Gray*
Nickname: *Black Knights* **2006 Record:** *3-9*

AUBURN
Auburn, AL

S. 1	Kansas State	
S. 8	South Florida	
S. 15	Mississippi State	34-0
S. 22	New Mexico State	
S. 29	@FLORIDA	27-17
O. 6	Vanderbilt	
O. 13	@ARKANSAS	10-27
O. 20	@LSU	7-3
O. 27	Mississippi	23-17
N. 3	Tennessee Tech	
N. 10	@GEORGIA	15-37
N. 24	Alabama	22-15

Coach: *Tommy Tuberville* **Colors:** *Burnt Orange & Navy Blue* **Nickname:** *Tigers* **2006 Record:** *10-2*

AUSTIN PEAY
Clarksville, TN

S. 1	Bethel (TN)	
S. 8	@INDIANA STATE	
S. 15	Tennessee State	
S. 22	Tennessee-Martin	10-20
S. 29	@GARDNER-WEBB	
O. 6	@TENNESSEE TECH	
O. 13	Jacksonville State	
O. 20	@SAMFORD	10-17
N. 3	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	13-38
N. 10	Eastern Kentucky	
N. 17	@MURRAY STATE	

Coach: *Rick Christophel* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Governors* **2006 Record:** *3-8*

BALL STATE
Muncie, IN

A. 30	Miami (OH)	20-17
S. 8	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	38-20
S. 15	@NAVY	
S. 22	@NEBRASKA	
S. 29	Buffalo	55-25
O. 6	Central Michigan	7-18
O. 13	Western Kentucky	
O. 20	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	27-41
O. 27	@ILLINOIS	
N. 3	@INDIANA	23-24
N. 13	Toledo	20-17
N. 24	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	28-40

Coach: *Brady Hoke* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Cardinals* **2006 Record:** *5-7*

BAYLOR
Waco, TX

S. 1	@TCU	7-17
S. 8	Rice	
S. 15	Texas State	
S. 22	@BUFFALO	
S. 29	@TEXAS A&M	21-31
O. 6	Colorado	34-31 (OT)
O. 13	@KANSAS	36-35
O. 20	Texas	31-63
O. 27	@KANSAS STATE	17-3
N. 3	Texas Tech	21-55
N. 10	@OKLAHOMA	10-36
N. 17	Oklahoma State	24-66

Coach: *Guy Morriss* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Bears* **2006 Record:** *4-8*

BETHUNE-COOKMAN
Daytona Beach, FL

S. 1	Jacksonville	
S. 8	South Carolina State	45-21
S. 15	@SAVANNAH STATE	55-6
S. 22	@NORFOLK STATE	22-21
S. 29	Morgan State	14-28
O. 6	@DELAWARE STATE	31-33
O. 20	Winston-Salem State	10-6
O. 27	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	70-7
N. 3	Hampton	17-34
N. 10	@HOWARD	0-28
N. 17	Florida A&M*	21-35

** At Orlando, FL*
Coach: *Alvin Wyatt* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2006 Record:** *5-6*

BOISE STATE
Boise, ID

A. 30	Weber State	
S. 8	@WASHINGTON	
S. 15	Wyoming	17-10
S. 27	Southern Miss	
O. 7	New Mexico State	40-28
O. 14	Nevada	38-7
O. 20	@LOUISIANA TECH	55-14
O. 26	@FRESNO STATE	45-21
N. 3	San Jose State	23-20
N. 10	@UTAH STATE	49-10
N. 17	Idaho	42-26
N. 23	@HAWAII	41-34

Coach: *Chris Petersen* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Broncos* **2006 Record:** *12-0*

BOSTON COLLEGE
Chestnut Hill, MA

S. 1	Wake Forest	14-21
S. 8	North Carolina State	15-17
S. 15	@GEORGIA TECH	
S. 22	Army	
S. 29	Massachusetts	
O. 6	Bowling Green	
O. 13	@NOTRE DAME	
O. 25	@VIRGINIA TECH	22-3
N. 3	Florida State	24-19
N. 10	@MARYLAND	38-16
N. 17	@CLEMSON	34-33 (OT)
N. 24	Miami (FL)	14-17

Coach: *Jeff Jagodzinski* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Eagles* **2006 Record:** *9-3*

BOWLING GREEN
Bowling Green, OH

S. 1	@MINNESOTA	
S. 8	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S. 22	Temple	14-28
S. 29	Western Kentucky	
O. 6	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
O. 13	@MIAMI (OH)	7-9
O. 20	@KENT STATE	3-38
O. 27	Ohio	21-9
N. 2	Akron	28-35
N. 9	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	24-21
N. 17	@BUFFALO	48-40 (OT)
N. 23	Toledo	21-31

Coach: *Gregg Brandon* **Colors:** *Brown & Orange*
Nickname: *Falcons* **2006 Record:** *4-8*

BRIGHAM YOUNG
Provo, UT

S. 1	Arizona	13-16
S. 8	@UCLA	
S. 15	@TULSA	49-24
S. 22	Air Force	33-14
S. 29	@NEW MEXICO	42-17
O. 13	@UNLV	52-7
O. 20	Eastern Washington	
O. 27	@SAN DIEGO STATE	47-17
N. 3	Colorado State	24-3
N. 8	TCU	31-17
N. 17	@WYOMING	55-7
N. 24	Utah	33-31

Coach: *Bronco Mendenhall* **Colors:** *Blue & White* **Nickname:** *Cougars* **2006 Record:** *10-2*

BROWN
Providence, RI

S. 15	Duquesne	
S. 22	@HARVARD	21-38
S. 29	Rhode Island	21-28
O. 6	Holy Cross	30-35
O. 13	Princeton	3-17
O. 20	@CORNELL	28-7
O. 27	Pennsylvania	30-27 (OT)
N. 3	@YALE	24-27
N. 10	Dartmouth	13-19 (OT)
N. 17	@COLUMBIA	21-22

Coach: *Phil Estes* **Colors:** *Brown, Red & White*
Nickname: *Bears* **2006 Record:** *3-7*

BUCKNELL
Lewisburg, PA

S. 1	@DUQUESNE	31-28 (OT)
S. 8	Stony Brook	
S. 15	@CORNELL	20-5
S. 22	Richmond	21-48
S. 29	Marist	48-19
O. 6	@COLGATE	31-28
O. 20	Georgetown	17-7
O. 27	Holy Cross	10-27
N. 3	@LAFAYETTE	0-31
N. 10	Lehigh	7-38
N. 17	@FORDHAM	13-3

Coach: *Tim Landis* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Bison* **2006 Record:** *6-5*

BUFFALO
Buffalo, NY

A. 30	@RUTGERS	
S. 8	@TEMPLE	9-3 (OT)
S. 15	@PENN STATE	
S. 22	Baylor	
S. 29	@BALL STATE	25-55
O. 6	Ohio	7-42
O. 13	Toledo	
O. 20	@SYRACUSE	
O. 27	Akron	16-31
N. 3	@MIAMI (OH)	31-38
N. 17	Bowling Green	40-48 (OT)
N. 24	@KENT STATE	41-14

Coach: *Turner Gill* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulls* **2006 Record:** *2-10*

BUTLER
Indianapolis, IN

S. 1	Albion	10-31
S. 8	@HANOVER	30-20
S. 15	St. Joseph's (IN)	
S. 22	Missouri-Rolla	20-35
S. 29	San Diego	3-56
O. 6	@DRAKE	0-29
O. 13	@VALPARAISO	32-10
O. 20	@MOREHEAD STATE	7-14
O. 27	Davidson	10-50
N. 3	@DAYTON	23-20
N. 10	@JACKSONVILLE	7-31

Coach: *Jeff Voris* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2006 Record:** *3-8*

CAL POLY
San Luis Obispo, CA

S. 1	@TEXAS STATE	
S. 8	@IDAHO	
S. 15	Weber State	17-0
S. 22	Western Oregon	
S. 29	Northern Colorado	
O. 13	@UC DAVIS	23-17
O. 20	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	28-29
O. 27	@IDAHO STATE	
N. 3	@SOUTHERN UTAH	18-14
N. 10	North Dakota State	14-51
N. 17	Iona	

Coach: *Rich Ellerson* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Mustangs* **2006 Record:** *7-4*

CALIFORNIA
Berkeley, CA

S. 1	Tennessee	18-35
S. 8	@COLORADO STATE	
S. 15	Louisiana Tech	
S. 22	Arizona	20-24
S. 29	@OREGON	45-24
O. 13	Oregon State	41-13
O. 20	@UCLA	38-24
O. 27	@ARIZONA STATE	49-21
N. 3	Washington State	21-3
N. 10	USC	9-23

N. 17 @WASHINGTON 31-24 (OT)
D. 1 @STANFORD 26-17
***Coach:** Jeff Tedford **Colors:** Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:** Golden Bears **2006 Record:** 9-3*

UC DAVIS
Davis, CA
S. 1 Western Washington
S. 8 @PORTLAND STATE
S. 15 @EASTERN WASHINGTON
S. 22 Northeastern
S. 29 @SAN JOSE STATE
O. 6 @NORTH DAKOTA STATE 24-28
O. 13 Cal Poly 17-23
O. 20 @SOUTHERN UTAH 27-7
O. 27 South Dakota State 21-22
N. 3 @SACRAMENTO STATE 30-16
N. 17 San Diego 37-27
***Coach:** Bob Biggs **Colors:** Yale Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:** Aggies **2006 Record:** 6-5*

CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Conway, AR
S. 1 @LOUISIANA TECH
S. 8 @NORTHWESTERN STATE
S. 15 Tennessee-Martin
S. 22 @MISSOURI STATE 16-14
O. 6 @SAM HOUSTON STATE 38-30
O. 13 Texas State
O. 20 @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
O. 27 Nicholls State
N. 3 South Dakota State 7-20
N. 10 Stephen F. Austin 37-35
N. 17 @MCNEESE STATE
***Coach:** Clint Conque **Colors:** Purple & Gray*
***Nickname:** Bears **2006 Record:** 8-3*

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE
New Britain, CT
A. 30 @TOWSON
S. 8 Merrimack
S. 15 Southern Connecticut State 29-26
S. 22 @WESTERN MICHIGAN
O. 6 @ST. FRANCIS (PA) 62-21
O. 13 Robert Morris 17-23 (OT)
O. 20 @WAGNER 27-6
O. 27 Monmouth 13-19
N. 3 Sacred Heart 42-14
N. 10 @STONY BROOK 35-32
N. 17 Albany 14-19
***Coach:** Jeff McInerney **Colors:** Blue & White*
***Nickname:** Blue Devils **2006 Record:** 8-3*

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Mount Pleasant, MI
S. 1 @KANSAS
S. 8 Toledo 42-20
S. 15 @PURDUE
S. 22 North Dakota State
S. 29 Northern Illinois 10-31
O. 6 @BALL STATE 18-7
O. 13 Army
O. 20 @CLEMSON
O. 27 @KENT STATE
N. 6 @WESTERN MICHIGAN 31-7
N. 16 Eastern Michigan 24-17 (OT)
N. 23 @AKRON 24-21
***Coach:** Butch Jones **Colors:** Maroon & Gold*
***Nickname:** Chippewas **2006 Record:** 9-4*

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Charleston, SC
S. 1 @CITADEL 38-35 (OT)
S. 8 @WOFFORD
S. 15 Johnson C. Smith
S. 22 @HAWAII
S. 29 @NORTH GREENVILLE 20-10
O. 6 Savannah State 38-13
O. 20 Liberty 20-34
O. 27 @GARDNER-WEBB 28-14
N. 3 @VIRGINIA MILITARY 27-22
N. 10 Presbyterian 21-13
N. 17 Coastal Carolina 17-31
***Coach:** Jay Mills **Colors:** Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:** Buccaneers **2006 Record:** 9-2*

CHATTANOOGA
Chattanooga, TN
A. 30 Carson-Newman
S. 8 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 10-13
S. 22 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN 27-26
S. 29 Citadel 21-24
O. 6 @ARKANSAS*
O. 13 Western Carolina 17-14 (OT)
O. 20 Furman 22-28 (OT)
O. 27 @ELON 17-20
N. 3 Western Kentucky 21-28
N. 10 Wofford 0-55
N. 17 @APPALACHIAN STATE 21-56
** At Little Rock, AR*
***Coach:** Rodney Allison **Colors:** Navy Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:** Mocs **2006 Record:** 3-8*

CINCINNATI
Cincinnati, OH
A. 30 Southeast Missouri State*
S. 6 Oregon State
S. 15 @MIAMI (OH) 24-10
S. 22 Marshall
S. 29 @SAN DIEGO STATE
O. 6 @RUTGERS 30-11
O. 13 Louisville 17-23
O. 20 @PITTSBURGH 15-33
N. 3 @SOUTH FLORIDA 23-6
N. 10 Connecticut 26-23
N. 17 West Virginia 24-42
N. 24 @SYRACUSE 17-3
** At Toronto, ON*
***Coach:** Brian Kelly **Colors:** Red & Black*
***Nickname:** Bearcats **2006 Record:** 7-5*

CITADEL
Charleston, SC
S. 1 Charleston Southern 35-38 (OT)
S. 8 Webber International
S. 15 @WISCONSIN
S. 29 @CHATTANOOGA 24-21
O. 6 Wofford 20-28
O. 13 Furman 17-23
O. 20 @WESTERN CAROLINA 30-27 (OT)
O. 27 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN 24-21
N. 3 Appalachian State 13-42
N. 10 Elon 44-7
N. 17 @VIRGINIA MILITARY 48-21
***Coach:** Kevin Higgins **Colors:** Blue & White*
***Nickname:** Bulldogs **2006 Record:** 5-6*

CLEMSON
Clemson, SC
S. 3 Florida State 27-20
S. 8 Louisiana-Monroe
S. 15 Furman
S. 22 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE 20-14
S. 29 @GEORGIA TECH 31-7
O. 6 Virginia Tech 7-24
O. 20 Central Michigan
O. 27 @MARYLAND 12-13
N. 3 @DUKE
N. 10 Wake Forest 27-17
N. 17 Boston College 33-34 (OT)
N. 24 @SOUTH CAROLINA 28-31
***Coach:** Tommy Bowden **Colors:** Purple & Orange **Nickname:** Tigers **2006 Record:** 8-4*

COASTAL CAROLINA
Conway, SC
S. 1 @DELAWARE STATE
S. 8 Winston-Salem State 31-12
S. 15 Georgia Southern 21-38
S. 22 @JAMES MADISON
O. 6 @FURMAN 29-27
O. 13 Chowan
O. 20 Presbyterian
O. 27 Virginia Military 31-27
N. 3 @LIBERTY 28-26
N. 10 Gardner-Webb 52-24
N. 17 @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 31-17
***Coach:** David Bennett **Colors:** Coastal Teal & Bronze **Nickname:** Chanticleers 2006 **Record:** 9-3*

COLGATE
Hamilton, NY
S. 1 Albany
S. 8 Massachusetts 7-28
S. 15 @DARTMOUTH 28-7
S. 29 Fordham 46-3
O. 6 Bucknell 28-31
O. 13 @CORNELL 14-38
O. 20 Towson
O. 27 @LAFAYETTE 10-27
N. 3 Lehigh 15-23
N. 10 @GEORGETOWN 31-14
N. 17 @HOLY CROSS 29-28
***Coach:** Dick Biddle **Colors:** Maroon & White*
***Nickname:** Raiders **2006 Record:** 4-7*

COLORADO
Boulder, CO
S. 1 Colorado State* 10-14
S. 8 Arizona State 3-21
S. 15 Florida State
S. 22 Miami (OH)
S. 29 Oklahoma 3-24
O. 6 @BAYLOR 31-34 (OT)
O. 13 @KANSAS STATE 21-34
O. 20 Kansas 15-20
O. 27 @TEXAS TECH 30-6
N. 3 Missouri 13-28
N. 10 @IOWA STATE 33-16
N. 23 Nebraska 14-37
** At Denver, CO*
***Coach:** Dan Hawkins **Colors:** Silver, Gold & Black **Nickname:** Buffaloes **2006 Record:** 2-10*

COLORADO STATE
Fort Collins, CO
S. 1 @COLORADO* 14-10
S. 8 California
S. 22 @HOUSTON
S. 29 @TCU 14-45
O. 6 San Diego State 6-17
O. 13 Air Force 21-24
O. 20 @UNLV 28-7
O. 27 Utah 22-35
N. 3 @BRIGHAM YOUNG 3-24
N. 10 @NEW MEXICO 19-20
N. 17 Georgia Southern
N. 23 Wyoming 0-24
** At Denver, CO*
***Coach:** Sonny Lubick **Colors:** Green & Gold*
***Nickname:** Rams **2006 Record:** 4-8*

COLUMBIA
New York, NY
S. 15 @FORDHAM 37-7
S. 22 Marist
S. 29 @PRINCETON 6-19
O. 6 @LAFAYETTE
O. 13 Pennsylvania 0-16
O. 20 @DARTMOUTH 7-20
O. 27 Yale 3-21
N. 3 Harvard 7-24
N. 10 @CORNELL 21-14
N. 17 Brown 22-21
***Coach:** Norries Wilson **Colors:** Columbia Blue & White **Nickname:** Lions **2006 Record:** 5-5*

CONNECTICUT
Storrs, CT
S. 1 @DUKE
S. 8 Maine
S. 15 Temple
S. 22 @PITTSBURGH 46-45 (OT)
S. 29 Akron
O. 13 @VIRGINIA
O. 19 Louisville 17-48
O. 27 South Florida 16-38
N. 3 Rutgers 13-24
N. 10 @CINCINNATI 23-26
N. 17 Syracuse 14-20
N. 24 @WEST VIRGINIA 11-37
***Coach:** Randy Edsall **Colors:** National Flag Blue & White **Nickname:** Huskies **2006 Record:** 4-8*

CORNELL
Ithaca, NY
S. 15 Bucknell 5-20
S. 22 @YALE 9-21
S. 29 @GEORGETOWN
O. 6 Harvard 23-33
O. 13 Colgate 38-14
O. 20 Brown 7-28
O. 27 @PRINCETON 14-7
N. 3 @DARTMOUTH 28-25
N. 10 Columbia 14-21
N. 17 @PENNSYLVANIA 28-27
***Coach:** Jim Knowles **Colors:** Red & White*
***Nickname:** Big Red **2006 Record:** 5-5*

DARTMOUTH
Hanover, NH
S. 15 Colgate 7-28
S. 22 @NEW HAMPSHIRE 14-56
S. 29 Pennsylvania 10-17
O. 6 @YALE 14-26
O. 13 @HOLY CROSS 21-24 (OT)
O. 20 Columbia 20-7
O. 27 @HARVARD 0-28
N. 3 Cornell 25-28
N. 10 @BROWN 19-13 (OT)
N. 17 Princeton 17-27
***Coach:** Buddy Teevens **Colors:** Dartmouth Green & White **Nickname:** Big Green **2006 Record:** 2-8*

DAVIDSON
Davidson, NC
S. 1 UNC Pembroke
S. 8 Wingate 16-22 (OT)
S. 15 Lenoir-Rhyne 24-14
S. 29 @JACKSONVILLE 38-3
O. 6 Morehead State 27-24
O. 13 @DAYTON 37-36
O. 20 Drake 15-35
O. 27 @BUTLER 50-10
N. 3 @SAN DIEGO 21-50
N. 10 Valparaiso 48-14
***Coach:** Tripp Merritt **Colors:** Red & Black*
***Nickname:** Wildcats **2006 Record:** 6-4*

DAYTON
Dayton, OH
S. 1 @ROBERT MORRIS 21-14
S. 8 Urbana
S. 15 Central State
S. 22 @FORDHAM
S. 29 @MOREHEAD STATE 15-22
O. 6 Jacksonville 21-28
O. 13 Davidson 36-37
O. 20 @VALPARAISO 51-7
O. 27 San Diego 14-56
N. 3 Butler 20-23
N. 10 @DRAKE 9-21
***Coach:** Mike Kelly **Colors:** Red & Blue*
***Nickname:** Flyers **2006 Record:** 4-6*

DELAWARE
Newark, DE
A. 30 @WILLIAM & MARY 28-14
S. 8 West Chester 30-7
S. 15 Rhode Island 24-17
S. 22 @TOWSON 35-49
S. 29 Monmouth
O. 6 @NEW HAMPSHIRE 49-52
O. 13 Northeastern 24-27
O. 27 @NAVY
N. 3 James Madison 24-44
N. 10 Richmond 28-24
N. 17 @VILLANOVA 27-28
***Coach:** K.C. Keeler **Colors:** Royal Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:** Blue Hens **2006 Record:** 5-6*

DELAWARE STATE
Dover, DE
S. 1 Coastal Carolina
S. 8 @FLORIDA A&M 34-14
S. 15 @KENT STATE
S. 29 @HAMPTON 14-29
O. 6 Bethune-Cookman 33-31
O. 13 @NORTH CAROLINA A&T 37-21
O. 20 Morgan State 29-7
O. 27 @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE 10-9
N. 3 @WINSTON-SALEM STATE
N. 10 Norfolk State 33-10
N. 17 Howard 17-20
***Coach:** Al Lavan **Colors:** Columbia Blue & Red*
***Nickname:** Hornets **2006 Record:** 8-3*

DRAKE
Des Moines, IA
A. 30 @ILLINOIS STATE
S. 8 Waldorf 35-3
S. 15 @WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE 35-7
S. 22 Northern Iowa 7-48
S. 29 Valparaiso 21-7
O. 6 Butler 29-0
O. 13 @SAN DIEGO 0-37
O. 20 @DAVIDSON 35-15
O. 27 Jacksonville 47-28
N. 3 @MOREHEAD STATE 33-7
N. 10 Dayton 21-9
***Coach:** Rob Ash **Colors:** Blue & White*
***Nickname:** Bulldogs **2006 Record:** 9-2*

DUKE
Durham, NC
S. 1 Connecticut
S. 8 @VIRGINIA 0-37
S. 15 @NORTHWESTERN
S. 22 @NAVY 13-38
S. 29 @MIAMI (FL) 15-20
O. 6 Wake Forest 13-14
O. 13 Virginia Tech 0-36
O. 27 @FLORIDA STATE 24-51
N. 3 Clemson
N. 10 Georgia Tech 21-49
N. 17 @NOTRE DAME
N. 24 @NORTH CAROLINA 44-45
***Coach:** Ted Roof **Colors:** Royal Blue & White*
***Nickname:** Blue Devils **2006 Record:** 0-12*

DUQUESNE
Pittsburgh, PA
S. 1 Bucknell 28-31 (OT)
S. 8 Robert Morris 27-7
S. 15 @BROWN
S. 22 @SACRED HEART 24-21
S. 29 St. Peter's 35-21
O. 6 @MARIST 40-10
O. 13 @ST. FRANCIS (PA) 41-10
O. 27 @IONA 13-17
N. 10 La Salle 38-0
N. 17 @MONMOUTH
***Coach:** Jerry Schmitt **Colors:** Red & Blue*
***Nickname:** Dukes **2006 Record:** 7-3*

EAST CARDLINA
Greenville, NC
S. 1 @VIRGINIA TECH
S. 8 North Carolina
S. 15 Southern Miss 20-17 (OT)
S. 22 @WEST VIRGINIA 10-27
S. 29 @HOUSTON
O. 6 UCF 23-10
O. 13 @UTEP
O. 20 North Carolina State 21-16
O. 27 UAB 12-17
N. 3 @MEMPHIS 35-20
N. 10 @MARSHALL 33-20
N. 24 Tulane
***Coach:** Skip Holtz **Colors:** Purple & Gold*
***Nickname:** Pirates **2006 Record:** 7-5*

EASTERN ILLINOIS
Charleston, IL
A. 30 Tennessee Tech 38-14
S. 8 @PURDUE
S. 15 Illinois State 13-24
S. 22 @INDIANA STATE 31-21
S. 29 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE 21-0
O. 6 Eastern Kentucky 28-21
O. 13 @MURRAY STATE 20-10
O. 20 Tennessee-Martin 9-15
O. 27 @TENNESSEE STATE 29-3
N. 10 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 28-24
N. 17 Samford 24-13
***Coach:** Bob Spoo **Colors:** Blue & Gray*
***Nickname:** Panthers **2006 Record:** 8-5*

EASTERN KENTUCKY
Richmond, KY
S. 1 @KENTUCKY
S. 8 Western Carolina 17-20
S. 15 @WESTERN KENTUCKY 26-21
S. 22 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 0-28
S. 29 Samford 31-12
O. 6 @EASTERN ILLINOIS 21-28
O. 13 Southeast Missouri State 27-21
O. 20 Tennessee State 20-3
O. 27 @MURRAY STATE 51-21
N. 10 @AUSTIN PEAY
N. 17 Tennessee Tech 14-27
***Coach:** Danny Hope **Colors:** Maroon & White*
***Nickname:** Colonels **2006 Record:** 6-5*

EASTERN MICHIGAN
Ypsilanti, MI
S. 1 @PITTSBURGH
S. 8 Ball State 20-38
S. 15 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS 0-27
S. 22 Howard
S. 29 @VANDERBILT
O. 6 @MICHIGAN
O. 13 @OHIO 10-16
O. 19 Northwestern* 6-14
O. 27 Western Michigan 15-18
N. 3 @TOLEDO 17-13
N. 9 Bowling Green 21-24
N. 16 @CENTRAL MICHIGAN 17-24 (OT)
** At Detroit, MI*
***Coach:** Jeff Genyk **Colors:** Dark Green & White*
***Nickname:** Eagles **2006 Record:** 1-11*

EASTERN WASHINGTON
Cheney, WA
A. 31 Montana-Western
S. 15 UC Davis
S. 22 @IDAHO STATE 40-6
S. 29 Portland State 0-34
O. 6 @MONTANA 17-33
O. 13 Montana State 19-10
O. 20 @BRIGHAM YOUNG
O. 27 @SACRAMENTO STATE 20-21
N. 3 Northern Colorado 34-0
N. 10 @NORTHERN ARIZONA 36-44
N. 17 Weber State 14-19
***Coach:** Paul Wulff **Colors:** Red & White*
***Nickname:** Eagles **2006 Record:** 3-8*

ELON
Elon College, NC
S. 1 @SOUTH FLORIDA
S. 8 West Virginia Wesleyan
S. 22 Liberty
S. 29 Appalachian State 21-45
O. 6 @WESTERN CAROLINA 37-19
O. 13 Georgia Southern 21-28
O. 20 @WOFFORD 21-35
O. 27 Chattanooga 20-17
N. 3 @FURMAN 13-24
N. 10 @CITADEL 7-44
N. 17 Stony Brook
***Coach:** Pete Lembo **Colors:** Maroon & Gold*
***Nickname:** Phoenix **2006 Record:** 5-6*

FLORIDA
Gainesville, FL
S. 1 Western Kentucky
S. 8 Troy
S. 15 Tennessee 21-20
S. 22 @MISSISSIPPI
S. 29 Auburn 17-27
O. 6 @LSU 23-10
O. 20 @KENTUCKY 26-7
O. 27 @GEORGIA* 21-14
N. 3 Vanderbilt 25-19
N. 10 @SOUTH CAROLINA 17-16
N. 17 Florida Atlantic
N. 24 Florida State 21-14
** At Jacksonville, FL*
***Coach:** Urban Meyer **Colors:** Orange & Blue*
***Nickname:** Gators **2006 Record:** 12-1*

FLORIDA A&M
Tallahassee, FL

S. 1	Southern University*	
S. 8	Delaware State	14-34
S. 15	Howard	31-23
S. 29	Tennessee State**	25-22 (OT)
O. 6	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE***	25-21
O. 13	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	21-28
O. 18	Norfolk State	36-33 (OT)
O. 27	@MORGAN STATE	24-23
N. 3	North Carolina A&T	45-12
N. 10	@HAMPTON	7-59
N. 17	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN****	35-21

** At Birmingham, AL*
*** At Atlanta, GA*
**** At Indianapolis, IN*
***** At Orlanda, FL*
Coach: *Rubin Carter* **Colors:** *Orange & Green*
Nickname: *Rattlers* **2006 Record:** *7-4*

FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Boca Ratan, FL

S. 1	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	14-35
S. 8	@OKLAHOMA STATE	8-48
S. 15	Minnesota*	
S. 22	@NORTH TEXAS	17-16
S. 29	@KENTUCKY	
O. 6	South Florida	
O. 20	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	0-6
O. 27	Louisiana-Monroe	21-19
N. 10	Arkansas State	29-0
N. 17	@FLORIDA	
N. 24	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	31-0
D. 1	@TROY	17-24

** At Miami, FL*
Coach: *Howard Schnellenberger* **Colors:** *Atlantic Blue and Gray* **Nickname:** *Owls* **2006 Record:** *5-7*

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Miami, FL

S. 1	@PENN STATE	
S. 8	Maryland	10-14
S. 15	@MIAMI (FL)	0-35
S. 22	@KANSAS	
S. 29	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	6-7
O. 6	Troy	13-26
O. 20	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	0-35
O. 27	@ARKANSAS	
N. 3	@ARKANSAS STATE	6-31
N. 17	Louisiana-Lafayette	7-17
N. 24	Florida Atlantic	0-31
D. 1	North Texas	22-25 (OT)

Coach: *Mario Cristobol* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Panthers* **2006 Record:** *0-12*

FLORIDA STATE
Tallahassee, FL

S. 3	@CLEMSON	20-27
S. 8	UAB	
S. 15	@COLORADO	
S. 29	Alabama*	
O. 6	North Carolina State	20-24
O. 11	@WAKE FOREST	0-30
O. 20	Miami (FL)	13-10
O. 27	Duke	51-24
N. 3	@BOSTON COLLEGE	19-24
N. 10	@VIRGINIA TECH	
N. 17	Maryland	24-27
N. 24	@FLORIDA	14-21

** At Jacksonville, FL*
Coach: *Bobby Bowden* **Colors:** *Garnet & Gold*
Nickname: *Seminoles* **2006 Record:** *6-6*

FORDHAM
Bronx, NY

S. 1	@RHODE ISLAND	
S. 8	Albany	9-7
S. 15	Columbia	7-37
S. 22	Dayton	
S. 29	@COLGATE	3-46
O. 6	Lehigh	14-45
O. 13	@GEORGETOWN	38-30
O. 20	@LAFAYETTE	24-31
O. 27	@MARIST	13-9
N. 3	Holy Cross	21-28
N. 17	Bucknell	3-13

Coach: *Tom Masella* **Colors:** *Maroan & White*
Nickname: *Rams* **2006 Record:** *3-8*

FRESNO STATE
Fresno, CA

S. 1	Sacramento State	
S. 8	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 15	@OREGON	24-31
S. 29	Louisiana Tech	34-27
O. 6	@NEVADA	28-19
O. 13	@IDAHO	34-0
O. 20	San Jose State	14-24
O. 26	Boise State	21-45
N. 3	Utah State	12-13
N. 10	@HAWAII	37-68
N. 24	Kansas State	
D. 1	@NEW MEXICO STATE	23-18

Coach: *Pat Hill* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2006 Record:** *4-8*

FURMAN
Greenville, SC

S. 1	Presbyterian	
S. 8	@HOFSTRA	
S. 15	@CLEMSON	
S. 29	Wofford	35-21
O. 6	Coastal Carolina	27-29
O. 13	@CITADEL	23-17
O. 20	@CHATTANOOGA	28-22 (OT)
O. 27	Appalachian State	7-40
N. 3	Elon	24-13
N. 10	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	13-10
N. 17	@WESTERN CAROLINA	42-7

Coach: *Bobby Lamb* **Colors:** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Paladins* **2006 Record:** *8-4*

GARDNER-WEBB
Boiling Springs, NC

S. 1	@OHIO	
S. 8	Jacksonville	49-14
S. 22	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
S. 29	Austin Peay	
O. 6	@APPALACHIAN STATE	6-41
O. 13	@WOFFORD	17-34
O. 20	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	35-31
O. 27	Charleston Southern	14-28
N. 3	Savannah State	
N. 10	@COASTAL CAROLINA	24-52
N. 17	Liberty	27-24

Coach: *Steve Patton* **Colors:** *Scarlet, White & Black*
Nickname: *Runnin' Bulldogs* **2006 Record:** *6-5*

GEORGETOWN
Washington, DC

S. 1	@STONY BROOK	7-0
S. 8	Lafayette	14-45
S. 15	Yale	
S. 22	@HOLY CROSS	13-26
S. 29	Cornell	
O. 6	@PENNSYLVANIA	
O. 13	Fordham	30-38
O. 20	@BUCKNELL	7-17
O. 27	@LEHIGH	3-28
N. 3	@MARIST	24-21
N. 10	Colgate	14-31

Coach: *Kevin Kelly* **Colors:** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Hoyas* **2006 Record:** *2-9*

GEORGIA
Athens, GA

S. 1	Oklahoma State	
S. 8	South Carolina	18-0
S. 15	Western Carolina	
S. 22	@ALABAMA	
S. 29	Mississippi	14-9
O. 6	@TENNESSEE	33-51
O. 13	@VANDERBILT	22-24
O. 27	Florida*	14-21
N. 3	Troy	
N. 10	Auburn	37-15
N. 17	Kentucky	20-24
N. 24	@GEORGIA TECH	15-12

** At Jacksanville, FL*
Coach: *Mark Richt* **Colors:** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2006 Record:** *8-4*

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Statesbaro, GA

S. 8	West Georgia	
S. 15	@COASTAL CAROLINA	38-21
S. 22	Chattanooga	26-27
S. 29	Western Carolina	24-14
O. 6	South Dakota State	
O. 13	@ELON	28-21
O. 20	@APPALACHIAN STATE	20-27 (OT)
O. 27	Citadel	21-24
N. 3	@WOFFORD	10-28
N. 10	Furman	10-13
N. 17	@COLORADO STATE	

Coach: *Chris Hatcher* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Eagles* **2006 Record:** *3-8*

GEORGIA TECH
Atlanta, GA

S. 1	@NOTRE DAME	10-14
S. 8	Samford	38-6
S. 15	Boston College	
S. 22	@VIRGINIA	24-7
S. 29	Clemson	7-31
O. 6	@MARYLAND	27-23
O. 13	@MIAMI (FL)	30-23
O. 20	Army	
N. 1	Virginia Tech	38-27
N. 10	@DUKE	49-21
N. 17	North Carolina	7-0
N. 24	Georgia	12-15

Coach: *Chan Gailey* **Colors:** *Old Gold & White*
Nickname: *Yellow Jackets* **2006 Record:** *9-4*

GRAMBLING STATE
Grambling, LA

S. 1	@ALCORN STATE	14-21
S. 8	@PITTSBURGH	
S. 22	Alabama A&M	27-30 (OT)
S. 29	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M*	53-7
O. 6	Mississippi Valley State	28-25
O. 13	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**	28-33
O. 20	@JACKSON STATE	36-7
O. 27	Texas Southern	28-33
N. 3	@ALABAMA STATE	16-35
N. 10	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
N. 24	Southern University***	17-21

** At Dallas, TX*
*** At Little Rock, AR*
**** At New Orleans, LA*
Coach: *Rod Braadway* **Colors:** *Black & Gald*
Nickname: *Tigers* **2006 Record:** *3-8*

HAMPTON
Hamptan, VA

S. 8	@HOWARD	46-7
S. 15	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	48-14
S. 22	@MORGAN STATE*	26-7
S. 29	Delaware State	29-14
O. 6	@PRINCETON	
O. 13	@NORFOLK STATE	42-13
O. 20	South Carolina State	6-13
O. 27	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE	13-3
N. 3	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	34-17
N. 10	Florida A&M	59-7
N. 17	Southern Illinois	

** At East Rutherford, NY*
Coach: *Joe Taylor* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Pirates* **2006 Record:** *10-2*

HARVARD
Boston, MA

S. 15	@HOLY CROSS	31-14
S. 22	Brown	38-21
S. 29	@LEHIGH	35-33
O. 6	@CORNELL	33-23
O. 13	Lafayette	24-7
O. 20	Princeton	28-31
O. 27	Dartmouth	28-0
N. 3	@COLUMBIA	24-7
N. 10	Pennsylvania	13-22
N. 17	@YALE	13-34

Coach: *Tim Murphy* **Colors:** *Crimson*
Nickname: *Crimson* **2006 Record:** *7-3*

HAWAII
Honolulu, HI

S. 1	Northern Colorado	
S. 8	@LOUISIANA TECH	61-17
S. 15	@UNLV	42-13
S. 22	Charleston Southern	
S. 29	@IDAHO	68-10
O. 6	Utah State	63-10
O. 12	@SAN JOSE STATE	54-17
O. 27	New Mexico State	49-30
N. 10	Fresno State	68-37
N. 16	@NEVADA	41-34
N. 23	Boise State	34-41
D. 1	Washington	

Coach: *June Jones* **Colors:** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Warriors* **2006 Record:** *10-3*

HOFSTRA
Hempstead, NY

S. 8	Furman	
S. 15	@ALBANY	
S. 22	@RHODE ISLAND	13-20
S. 29	Stony Brook	17-8
O. 6	Maine	10-21
O. 13	@TOWSON	30-33
O. 20	New Hampshire	6-10
O. 27	@VILLANOVA	16-20
N. 3	William & Mary	16-14
N. 10	@NORTHEASTERN	24-34
N. 17	Massachusetts	16-22

Coach: *Dave Cohen* **Colors:** *Blue, White & Gold*
Nicknome: *Pride* **2006 Record:** *2-9*

HOLY CROSS
Worcester, MA

S. 1	@MASSACHUSETTS	
S. 15	Harvard	14-31
S. 22	Georgetown	26-13
S. 29	Yale	
O. 6	@BROWN	35-30
O. 13	Dartmouth	24-21 (OT)
O. 20	@LEHIGH	14-28
O. 27	@BUCKNELL	27-10
N. 3	@FORDHAM	28-21
N. 10	Lafayette	38-28
N. 17	Colgate	28-29

Coach: *Tom Gilmore* **Colors:** *Royal Purple & White* **Nickname:** *Crusaders* **2006 Record:** *7-4*

HOUSTON
Houston, TX

S. 1	@OREGON	
S. 15	@TULANE	45-7
S. 22	Colorado State	
S. 29	East Carolina	
O. 6	@ALABAMA	
O. 13	Rice	31-30
O. 20	@UAB	
O. 27	@UTEP	34-17
N. 4	Southern Methodist	37-27
N. 10	@TULSA	27-10
N. 17	Marshall	
N. 24	Texas Southern	

Coach: *Art Briles* **Colors:** *Scarlet & White*
Nickname: *Cougars* **2006 Record:** *10-3*

HOWARD
Washington, DC

S. 8	Hampton	7-46
S. 15	@FLORIDA A&M	23-31
S. 22	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
S. 29	Winston-Salem State	0-12
O. 6	Cheyney	
O. 13	@MORGAN STATE	12-18 (OT)
O. 20	North Carolina A&T	26-0
O. 27	@NORFOLK STATE	13-10
N. 3	South Carolina State	10-28
N. 10	Bethune-Cookman	28-0
N. 17	@DELAWARE STATE	20-17

Coach: *Carey Bailey* **Colors:** *Navy Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bison* **2006 Record:** *5-6*

IDAHO
Moscow, ID

S. 1	@USC	
S. 8	Cal Poly	
S. 15	@WASHINGTON STATE	10-56
S. 22	Northern Illinois	
S. 29	Hawaii	10-68
O. 6	@SAN JOSE STATE	13-28
O. 13	Fresno State	0-34
O. 20	@NEW MEXICO STATE	28-20
O. 27	@NEVADA	7-45
N. 3	Louisiana Tech	24-14
N. 17	@BOISE STATE	26-42
N. 24	Utah State	41-21

Coach: *Robb Akey* **Colors:** *Silver & Gald*
Nickname: *Vandals* **2006 Record:** *4-8*

IDAHO STATE
Pocatella, ID

S. 8	Southern Oregon	
S. 15	@OREGON STATE	
S. 22	Eastern Washington	6-40
S. 29	@MONTANA STATE	35-42
O. 6	Northern Colorado	41-13
O. 13	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	27-33
O. 20	Portland State	13-34
O. 27	Cal Poly	
N. 3	@WEBER STATE	27-30
N. 10	Montana	10-23
N. 17	@SACRAMENTO STATE	14-22

Coach: *John Zomberlin* **Colors:** *Black & Orange*
Nickname: *Bengals* **2006 Record:** *2-9*

ILLINDIS
Chompaign, IL

S. 1	Missouri*	
S. 8	Western Illinois	
S. 15	@SYRACUSE	21-31
S. 22	@INDIANA	32-34
S. 29	Penn State	12-26
O. 6	Wisconsin	24-30
O. 13	@IOWA	7-24
O. 20	Michigan	
O. 27	Ball State	
N. 3	@MINNESOTA	
N. 10	@OHIO STATE	10-17
N. 17	Northwestern	16-27

** At St. Louis, MO*
Coach: *Ron Zook* **Colors:** *Orange & Blue*
Nickname: *Fighting Illi* **2006 Record:** *2-10*

ILLINOIS STATE
Normal, IL

A. 30	Drake	
S. 8	Murray State	35-14
S. 15	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	24-13
S. 22	@MISSOURI	
S. 29	Northern Iowa	27-38
O. 6	@MISSOURI STATE	38-14
O. 13	Indiana State	42-20
O. 20	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	21-28
O. 27	Western Illinois	27-14
N. 3	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
N. 10	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	37-10

Coach: *Denver Johnson* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Redbirds* **2006 Record:** *9-4*

INDIANA
Bloomington, IN

S. 1	Indiana State	
S. 8	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	39-20
S. 15	Akron	
S. 22	Illinois	34-32
S. 29	@IOWA	31-28
O. 6	Minnesota	26-63
O. 13	@MICHIGAN STATE	46-21
O. 20	Penn State	
O. 27	@WISCONSIN	17-52
N. 3	Ball State	24-23
N. 10	@NORTHWESTERN	
N. 17	Purdue	19-28

Coach: *Terry Hoeppner* **Colors:** *Cream & Crimson*
Nickname: *Hoosiers* **2006 Record:** *5-7*

INDIANA STATE
Terre Houte, IN

S. 1	@INDIANA	
S. 8	Austin Peay	
S. 15	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	
S. 22	Eastern Illinois	21-31
S. 29	Southern Illinois	3-55
O. 6	Western Illinois	41-46
O. 13	@ILLINOIS STATE	20-42
O. 20	Western Kentucky	3-41
O. 27	@MISSOURI STATE	28-22
N. 3	Youngstown State	17-55
N. 10	@NORTHERN IOWA	14-34

Coach: *Lou West* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Sycamores* **2006 Record:** *1-10*

IONA
New Rochelle, NY

S. 1	Delaware Valley	
S. 8	Wagner	3-7
S. 15	Sacred Heart	16-27
S. 22	@WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE	20-21
S. 29	@STONEHILL	24-7
O. 6	@LA SALLE	28-0
O. 13	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
O. 27	Duquesne	17-13
N. 3	@ST. PETER'S	15-30
N. 10	Marist	17-24
N. 17	@CAL POLY	

Coach: *Fred Mariani* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gald*
Nickname: *Gaels* **2006 Record:** *3-7*

IOWA
Iawa City, IA

S. 1	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS*	24-14
S. 8	Syracuse	20-13 (OT)
S. 15	@IOWA STATE	27-17
S. 22	@WISCONSIN	21-24
S. 29	Indiana	28-31
O. 6	@PENN STATE	
O. 13	Illinois	24-7
O. 20	@PURDUE	47-17
O. 27	Michigan State	
N. 3	@NORTHWESTERN	7-21
N. 10	Minnesota	24-34
N. 17	Western Michigan	

** At Chicago, IL*
Coach: *Kirk Ferentz* **Colors:** *Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Hawkeyes* **2006 Record:** *6-6*

IDWA STATE
Ames, IA

A. 30	Kent State	
S. 8	Northern Iowa	28-27
S. 15	Iowa	17-27
S. 22	@TOLEDO	45-43 (OT)
S. 29	@NEBRASKA	14-28
O. 6	@TEXAS TECH	26-42
O. 13	Texas	14-37
O. 20	Oklahoma	9-34
O. 27	@MISSOURI	21-16
N. 3	Kansas State	10-31
N. 10	Colorado	16-33
N. 17	@KANSAS	10-41

Coach: *Gene Chizik* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Gold*
Nickname: *Cyclones* **2006 Record:** *4-8*

JACKSON STATE
Jackson, MS

S. 1	Delta State	
S. 8	@TENNESSEE STATE*	30-31 (OT)
S. 13	Texas Southern	29-5
S. 22	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	29-24
O. 6	Alabama State	19-13
O. 13	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	31-28 (OT)
O. 20	Grambling State	7-36
O. 27	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	40-43
N. 3	@ALABAMA A&M	21-34
N. 10	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	31-7
N. 17	Alcorn State	31-32

** At Memphis, TN*
Coach: *Rick Camegy* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nicknome: *Tigers* **2006 Record:** *6-5*

JACKSONVILLE
Jacksonville, FL

S. 1	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	
S. 8	@GARDNER-WEBB	14-49
S. 22	UNC Pembroke	
S. 29	Davidson	3-38
O. 6	@DAYTON	28-21
O. 13	Morehead State	28-24
O. 20	@SAN DIEGO	21-38
O. 27	@DRAKE	28-47
N. 3	Valparaiso	34-17
N. 10	Butler	31-7
N. 17	Wagner	

Coach: *Kerwin Bell* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Dolphins* ***2006 Record:*** *4-6*

JACKSONVILLE STATE
Jacksanville, AL

S. 1	@ALABAMA STATE	
S. 8	Chattanooga	13-10
S. 15	@MEMPHIS	
S. 22	Eastern Kentucky	28-0
S. 29	@MURRAY STATE	49-17
O. 4	Tennessee-Martin	14-24
O. 13	@AUSTIN PEAY	
O. 20	Tennessee Tech	17-10 (OT)
N. 3	@SAMFORO	55-7
N. 10	Eastern Illinois	24-28
N. 17	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	38-7

Coach: *Jack Crawe* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Gamecocks* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

JAMES MADISON
Harrisonburg, VA

S. 1	@NORTH CAROLINA	
S. 8	New Hampshire	42-23
S. 15	Virginia Military	45-7
S. 22	Coastal Carolina	
S. 29	Villanova	20-21
O. 6	@NORTHEASTERN	52-14
O. 13	@RHODE ISLAND	35-23
O. 27	Richmond	27-10
N. 3	@DELAWARE	44-24
N. 10	@WILLIAM & MARY	31-17
N. 17	Towson	38-3

Coach: *Mickey Matthews* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Dukes* ***2006 Record:*** *9-3*

KANSAS
Lawrence, KS

S. 1	Central Michigan	
S. 8	Southeastern Louisiana	
S. 15	Toledo	31-37 (OT)
S. 22	Florida International	
O. 6	@KANSAS STATE	39-20
O. 13	Baylor	35-36
O. 20	@COLORADO	20-15
O. 27	@TEXAS A&M	18-21
N. 3	Nebraska	32-39 (OT)
N. 10	@OKLAHOMA STATE	32-42
N. 17	Iowa State	41-10
N. 24	Missouri*	17-42

** At Kansas City, MO*
Coach: *Mark Mangino* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Blue*
Nickname: *Joyhawks* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

KANSAS STATE
Manhattan, KS

S. 1	@AUBURN	
S. 8	San Jose State	
S. 15	Missouri State	
S. 29	@TEXAS	45-42
O. 6	Kansas	20-39
O. 13	Colorado	34-21
O. 20	@OKLAHOMA STATE	31-27
O. 27	Baylor	3-17
N. 3	@IOWA STATE	31-10
N. 10	@NEBRASKA	3-21
N. 17	Missouri	21-41
N. 24	@FRESNO STATE	

Coach: *Ron Prince* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

KENT STATE
Kent, OH

A. 30	@IOWA STATE	
S. 8	@KENTUCKY	
S. 15	Delaware State	
S. 22	@AKRON	37-15
S. 29	@OHIO	7-17
O. 6	Miami (OH)	16-14
O. 13	@OHIO STATE	
O. 20	Bowling Green	38-3
O. 27	Central Michigan	
N. 10	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
N. 17	@TEMPLE	28-17
N. 24	Buffalo	14-41

Coach: *Doug Martin* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Flashes* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

KENTUCKY
Lexington, KY

S. 1	Eastern Kentucky	
S. 8	Kent State	
S. 15	Louisville	28-59
S. 22	@ARKANSAS	
S. 29	Florida Atlantic	
O. 4	@SOUTH CAROLINA	17-24
O. 13	LSU	0-49
O. 20	Florida	7-26
O. 27	Mississippi State	34-31
N. 10	@VANDERBILT	38-26
N. 17	@GEORGIA	24-20
N. 24	Tennessee	12-17

Coach: *Rich Brooks* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

LA SALLE
Philadelphia, PA

A. 30	Ursinus	2-6
S. 8	@SACRED HEART	
S. 21	College of New Jersey	21-24
S. 29	@GENEVA COLLEGE	
O. 6	Iona	0-28
O. 13	@MARIST	13-41
O. 27	St. Peter's	37-28
N. 3	@WAGNER	15-38
N. 10	@DUQUESNE	0-38
N. 17	St. Francis (PA)	24-21

Coach: *Tim Miller* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Explorers* ***2006 Record:*** *3-7*

LAFAYETTE
Easton, PA

S. 1	Marist	
S. 8	@GEORGETOWN	45-14
S. 15	@PENNSYLVANIA	11-21
S. 22	Princeton	14-26
O. 6	Columbia	
O. 13	@HARVARD	7-24
O. 20	Fordham	31-24
O. 27	Colgate	27-10
N. 3	Bucknell	31-0
N. 10	@HOLY CROSS	28-38
N. 17	@LEHIGH	49-27

Coach: *Frank Tavani* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Leopards* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

LEHIGH
Bethlehem, PA

S. 8	Villanova	31-28
S. 15	@PRINCETON	10-14
S. 22	Virginia Military	
S. 29	Harvard	33-35
O. 6	@FORDHAM	45-14
O. 13	@YALE	20-26 (OT)
O. 20	Holy Cross	28-14
O. 27	Georgetown	28-3
N. 3	@COLGATE	23-15
N. 10	@BUCKNELL	38-7
N. 17	Lafayette	27-49

Coach: *Andy Coen* ***Colors:*** *Brown & White*
Nickname: *Mountain Hawks* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

LIBERTY
Lynchburg, VA

S. 1	Tusculum	
S. 8	Shippensburg	
S. 15	@WILLIAM & MARY	13-14
S. 22	@ELON	
S. 29	St. Francis (PA)	
O. 6	@TOLEDO	
O. 20	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	34-20
O. 27	Presbyterian	
N. 3	Coastal Carolina	26-28
N. 10	Virginia Military	38-32
N. 17	@GARDNER-WEBB	24-27

Coach: *Danny Rocco* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Blue*
Nickname: *Flames* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

LOUISIANA TECH
Ruston, LA

S. 1	Central Arkansas	
S. 8	Hawaii	17-61
S. 15	@CALIFORNIA	
S. 29	@FRESNO STATE	27-34
O. 6	@MISSISSIPPI	
O. 13	New Mexico State	23-50
O. 20	Boise State	14-55
O. 27	@UTAH STATE	48-35
N. 3	@IDAHO	14-24
N. 10	@LSU	
N. 17	San Jose State	10-44
D. 1	@NEVADA	0-42

Coach: *Derek Dooley* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2006 Record:*** *3-10*

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
Lafayette, LA

S. 1	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
S. 8	Ohio	
S. 15	McNeese State	
S. 22	Troy	28-42
S. 29	@UCF	
O. 6	North Texas	7-16
O. 13	@ARKANSAS STATE	28-13
O. 20	Florida Atlantic	6-0
N. 3	@TENNESSEE	
N. 10	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	20-34
N. 17	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	17-7
N. 24	Louisiana-Monroe	20-39

Coach: *Rickey Bustle* ***Colors:*** *Vermillion & White*
Nickname: *Ragin' Cajuns* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

LOUISIANA-MONROE
Monroe, LA

A. 30	Tulsa	
S. 8	@CLEMSON	
S. 15	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 29	@TROY	19-24
O. 6	Arkansas State	6-10
O. 13	@NORTH TEXAS	23-3
O. 20	Florida International	35-0
O. 27	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	19-21
N. 3	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	21-35
N. 10	Grambling State	
N. 17	@ALABAMA	7-41
N. 24	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	39-20

Coach: *Charlie Weatherbie* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal Red & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Warhawks* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

LOUISVILLE
Louisville, KY

A. 30	Murray State	
S. 6	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	44-17
S. 15	@KENTUCKY	59-28
S. 22	Syracuse	28-13
S. 29	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
O. 5	Utah	
O. 13	@CINCINNATI	23-17
O. 19	@CONNECTICUT	48-17
O. 27	Pittsburgh	48-24
N. 8	@WEST VIRGINIA	44-34
N. 17	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-8
N. 29	Rutgers	25-28

Coach: *Steve Kragtharpe* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Cardinals* ***2006 Record:*** *11-1*

LSU
Baton Rauge, LA

A. 30	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	48-17
S. 8	Virginia Tech	
S. 15	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
S. 22	South Carolina	
S. 29	@TULANE	49-7
O. 6	Florida	10-23
O. 13	@KENTUCKY	49-0
O. 20	Auburn	3-7
N. 3	@ALABAMA	28-14
N. 10	Louisiana Tech	
N. 17	@MISSISSIPPI	23-20 (OT)
N. 24	Arkansas	31-26

Coach: *Les Miles* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

MAINE
Orono, ME

S. 1	Monmouth	
S. 8	@CONNECTICUT	
S. 15	@VILLANOVA	20-7
S. 22	Massachusetts	9-10
O. 6	@HOFSTRA	21-10
O. 13	William & Mary	20-17
O. 20	@STONY BROOK	
O. 27	@NORTHEASTERN	30-3
N. 3	Towson	28-7
N. 10	Rhode Island	0-3
N. 17	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	13-19 (OT)

Coach: *Jack Cosgrove* ***Colors:*** *White & Blue*
Nickname: *Block Bears* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

MARIST
Poughkeepsie, NY

S. 1	@LAFAYETTE	
S. 8	@SAN DIEGO	
S. 15	@WAGNER	7-38
S. 22	@COLUMBIA	
S. 29	@BUCKNELL	19-48
O. 6	Duquesne	10-40
O. 13	La Salle	41-13
O. 20	@ST. PETER'S	35-18
O. 27	Fordham	9-13
N. 3	Georgetown	21-24
N. 10	@IONA	24-17

Coach: *Jim Parady* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Red Foxes* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

MARSHALL
Huntington, WV

S. 1	@MIAMI (FL)	
S. 8	West Virginia	10-42
S. 15	New Hampshire	
S. 22	@CINCINNATI	
O. 2	@MEMPHIS	41-27
O. 13	@TULSA	
O. 21	Southern Miss	7-42
O. 27	Rice	
N. 3	@UCF	22-23
N. 10	East Carolina	20-33
N. 17	@HOUSTON	
N. 24	UAB	31-24

Coach: *Mark Snyder* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Thundering Herd* ***2006 Record:*** *5-7*

MARYLAND
College Park, MD

S. 1	Villanova	
S. 8	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	14-10
S. 13	West Virginia	24-45
S. 22	@WAKE FOREST	24-38
S. 29	@RUTGERS	
O. 6	Georgia Tech	23-27
O. 20	Virginia	28-26
O. 27	Clemson	13-12
N. 3	@NORTH CAROLINA	
N. 10	Boston College	16-38
N. 17	@FLORIDA STATE	27-24
N. 24	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	26-20

Coach: *Ralph Friedgen* ***Colors:*** *Red, White, Black & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Terrapins* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

MASSACHUSETTS
Amherst, MA

S. 1	Holy Cross	
S. 8	@COLGATE	28-7
S. 15	Towson	35-0
S. 22	@MAINE	10-9
S. 29	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
O. 13	Villanova	31-21
O. 20	Northeastern	7-0
O. 27	@WILLIAM & MARY	48-7
N. 3	@RHODE ISLAND	41-16
N. 10	New Hampshire	24-17
N. 17	@HOFSTRA	22-16

Coach: *Don Brawn* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Minutemen* ***2006 Record:*** *13-2*

McNEESE STATE
Lake Charles, LA

S. 1	Portland State	
S. 15	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
S. 22	@SOUTHERN UTAH	30-27
S. 29	South Dakota	
O. 6	@TEXAS STATE	17-27
O. 13	Sam Houston State	31-18
O. 20	@NICHOLLS STATE	26-10
O. 27	Southeastern Louisiana	34-13
N. 3	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	20-17
N. 10	Northwestern State	29-26 (OT)
N. 17	Central Arkansas	

Coach: *Matt Viator* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Cowboys* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

MEMPHIS
Memphis, TN

S. 1	Mississippi	25-28
S. 8	@ARKANSAS STATE	23-26
S. 15	Jacksonville State	
S. 22	@UCF	24-26
O. 2	Marshall	27-41
O. 13	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
O. 20	@RICE	
O. 27	@TULANE	
N. 3	East Carolina	20-35
N. 10	@SOUTHERN MISS	21-42
N. 17	UAB	29-35
N. 24	Southern Methodist	

Coach: *Tommy West* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *2-10*

MIAMI (FL)
Coral Gables, FL

S. 1	Marshall	
S. 8	@OKLAHOMA	
S. 15	Florida International	35-0
S. 20	Texas A&M	
S. 29	Duke	20-15
O. 6	@NORTH CAROLINA	27-7
O. 13	Georgia Tech	23-30
O. 20	@FLORIDA STATE	10-13
N. 3	North Carolina State	
N. 10	Virginia	7-17
N. 17	@VIRGINIA TECH	10-17
N. 24	@BOSTON COLLEGE	17-14

Coach: *Randy Shannan* ***Colors:*** *Orange, Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Hurricanes* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

MIAMI (OH)
Oxford, OH

A. 30	@BALL STATE	17-20
S. 8	@MINNESOTA	
S. 15	Cincinnati	10-24
S. 22	@COLORADO	
S. 29	Syracuse	14-34
O. 6	@KENT STATE	14-16
O. 13	Bowling Green	9-7
O. 20	@TEMPLE	
O. 27	@VANDERBILT	
N. 3	Buffalo	38-31
N. 14	Akron	13-24
N. 24	@OHIO	24-34

Coach: *Shone Montgomery* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *RedHawks* ***2006 Record:*** *2-10*

MICHIGAN
Ann Arbor, MI

S. 1	Appalachian State	
S. 8	Oregon	
S. 15	Notre Dame	47-21
S. 22	Penn State	17-10
S. 29	@NORTHWESTERN	17-3
O. 6	Eastern Michigan	
O. 13	Purdue	
O. 20	@ILLINOIS	
O. 27	Minnesota	28-14
N. 3	@MICHIGAN STATE	31-13
N. 10	@WISCONSIN	27-13
N. 17	Ohio State	39-42

Coach: *Llayd Carr* ***Colors:*** *Maize & Blue*
Nickname: *Wolverines* ***2006 Record:*** *11-1*

MICHIGAN STATE
East Lansing, MI

S. 1	UAB	
S. 8	Bowling Green	
S. 15	Pittsburgh	38-23
S. 22	@NOTRE DAME	37-40
S. 29	@WISCONSIN	
O. 6	Northwestern	41-38
O. 13	Indiana	21-46
O. 20	@OHIO STATE	7-38
O. 27	@IOWA	
N. 3	Michigan	13-31
N. 10	@PURDUE	15-17
N. 17	Penn State	13-17

Coach: *Mark Dantanio* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Spartans* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Murfreesboro, TN

S. 1	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	35-14
S. 6	@LOUISVILLE	17-44
S. 15	@LSU	
S. 20	Western Kentucky	
S. 29	Florida International	7-6
O. 6	Virginia	
O. 13	@MEMPHIS	
O. 20	Arkansas State	38-10
O. 27	@NORTH TEXAS	35-0
N. 3	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	35-21
N. 10	Louisiana-Lafayette	34-20
N. 20	@TROY	20-21

Coach: *Rick Stockstill* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Blue Raiders* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

MINNESOTA
Minneapalis, MN

S. 1	Bowling Green	
S. 8	Miami (OH)	
S. 15	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC*	
S. 22	Purdue	21-27
S. 29	Ohio State	0-44
O. 6	@INDIANA	63-26
O. 13	@NORTHWESTERN	
O. 20	North Dakota State	10-9
O. 27	@MICHIGAN	14-28
N. 3	Illinois	
N. 10	@IOWA	34-24
N. 17	Wisconsin	12-48

** At Miami, FL*
Coach: *Tim Brewster* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Gophers* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

MISSISSIPPI
Oxford, MS

S. 1	@MEMPHIS	28-25
S. 8	Missouri	7-34
S. 15	@VANDERBILT	17-10
S. 22	Florida	
S. 29	@GEORGIA	9-14
O. 6	Louisiana Tech	
O. 13	Alabama	23-26 (OT)
O. 20	Arkansas	3-38
O. 27	@AUBURN	17-23
N. 3	Northwestern State	27-7
N. 17	LSU	20-23 (OT)
N. 23	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	20-17

Coach: *Ed Orgeron* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal Red & Navy Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Rebels* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

MISSISSIPPI STATE
Starkville, MS

A. 30	LSU	17-48
S. 8	@TULANE	29-32
S. 15	@AUBURN	0-34
S. 22	Gardner-Webb	
S. 29	@SOUTH CAROLINA	0-15
O. 6	UAB	16-10 (OT)
O. 13	Tennessee	
O. 20	@WEST VIRGINIA	14-42
O. 27	@KENTUCKY	31-34
N. 10	Alabama	24-16
N. 17	@ARKANSAS*	14-28
N. 23	Mississippi	17-20

** At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Sylvester Croom* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2006 Record:*** *3-9*

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
Itta Bena, MS

S. 1	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	10-0
S. 8	Southern University	14-31
S. 15	@ALABAMA A&M	23-20
S. 22	Jackson State	24-29
O. 6	@GRAMBLING STATE	25-28
O. 13	North Dakota State	0-45
O. 20	Texas Southern	20-18
O. 27	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	14-10
N. 3	@ALCORN STATE	28-25
N. 10	Alabama State	20-25
N. 17	@SAVANNAH STATE	

Coach: *Willie Totten* ***Colors:*** *Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Delta Devils* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

MISSOURI
Columbia, MO

S. 1	@ILLINOIS*	
S. 8	@MISSISSIPPI	34-7
S. 15	Western Michigan	
S. 22	Illinois State	
O. 6	Nebraska	20-34
O. 13	@OKLAHOMA	10-26
O. 20	Texas Tech	38-21
O. 27	Iowa State	16-21
N. 3	@COLORADO	28-13
N. 10	Texas A&M	19-25
N. 17	@KANSAS STATE	41-21
N. 24	@KANSAS**	42-17

** At St. Louis, MO*
*** At Kansas City, MO*
Coach: *Gary Pinkel* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

MISSOURI STATE
Springfield, MO

A. 30	Missouri-Rolla	
S. 6	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	
S. 15	@KANSAS STATE	
S. 22	Central Arkansas	14-16
S. 29	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	10-37
O. 6	Illinois State	14-38
O. 13	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	24-21
O. 20	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	17-27
O. 27	Indiana State	22-28
N. 3	Northern Iowa	7-38
N. 10	Southeast Missouri State	

Coach: *Terry Allen* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bears* ***2006 Record:*** *2-9*

MONMOUTH
West Long Branch, NJ

S. 1	@MAINE	
S. 15	@ST. PETER'S	36-12
S. 22	@STONY BROOK	17-36
S. 29	@DELAWARE	
O. 6	@SACRED HEART	24-0
O. 13	Wagner	28-7
O. 20	Robert Morris	16-7
O. 27	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	19-13
N. 3	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	54-20
N. 10	Albany	19-0
N. 17	Duquesne	

Coach: *Kevin Callahan* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Hawks* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

MONTANA
Missoula, MT

S. 1	Southern Utah	
S. 8	Fort Lewis	
S. 22	Albany	
S. 29	Weber State	33-30
O. 6	Eastern Washington	33-17
O. 13	@SACRAMENTO STATE	59-14
O. 20	Northern Colorado	53-21
O. 27	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	24-21
N. 3	Portland State	26-20
N. 10	@IDAHO STATE	23-10
N. 17	@MONTANA STATE	13-7

Coach: *Bobby Hauck* ***Colors:*** *Copper, Silver & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Grizzlies* ***2006 Record:*** *12-2*

MONTANA STATE
Bozeman, MT

S. 1	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 15	Dixie State	
S. 22	@WEBER STATE	24-18
S. 29	Idaho State	42-35
O. 6	Southern Utah	
O. 13	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	10-19
O. 20	Sacramento State	21-18
O. 27	@NORTHERN COLORADO	13-10
N. 3	Northern Arizona	39-32
N. 10	@PORTLAND STATE	14-0
N. 17	Montana	7-13

Coach: *TBA* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Babcats* ***2006 Record:*** *8-5*

MOREHEAD STATE
Morehead, KY

S. 8	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	
S. 15	West Virginia Tech	
S. 22	Robert Morris	
S. 29	Dayton	22-15
O. 6	@DAVIDSON	24-27
O. 13	@JACKSONVILLE	24-28
O. 20	Butler	14-7
O. 27	@VALPARAISO	35-42
N. 3	Drake	7-33
N. 10	San Diego	21-44
N. 17	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	

Coach: *Matt Ballard* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & White* ***Nickname:*** *Eagles* ***2006 Record:*** *2-9*

MORGAN STATE
Baltimore, MD

A. 30	Savannah State	
S. 8	Towson	2-30
S. 15	Winston-Salem State	
S. 22	Hampton*	7-26
S. 29	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	28-14
O. 6	North Carolina A&T	32-0
O. 13	Howard	18-12 (OT)
O. 20	@DELAWARE STATE	7-29
O. 27	Florida A&M	23-24
N. 3	Norfolk State	29-20
N. 10	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	16-41

** At East Rutherford, NY*
Coach: *Donald Hill-Eley* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & Orange* ***Nickname:*** *Bears* ***2006 Record:*** *5-6*

MURRAY STATE
Murray, KY

A. 30	@LOUISVILLE	
S. 8	@ILLINOIS STATE	14-35
S. 15	Lambuth	
S. 20	@TENNESSEE TECH	14-20 (OT)
S. 29	Jacksonville State	17-49
O. 13	Eastern Illinois	10-20
O. 20	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	17-24
O. 27	Eastern Kentucky	21-51
N. 3	@TENNESSEE STATE	15-25
N. 10	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	14-42
N. 17	Austin Peay	

Coach: *Mott Griffin* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Racers* ***2006 Record:*** *1-10*

NAVY
Annapolis, MD

A. 31	@TEMPLE	42-6
S. 7	@RUTGERS	0-34
S. 15	Ball State	
S. 22	Duke	38-13
S. 29	Air Force	24-17
O. 10	@PITTSBURGH	
O. 20	Wake Forest	
O. 27	Delaware	
N. 3	@NOTRE DAME	14-38
N. 10	@NORTH TEXAS	
N. 17	Northern Illinois	
D. 1	@ARMY*	26-14

** At Baltimore, MD*
Coach: *Paul Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Midshipmen* ***2006 Record:*** *9-3*

NEBRASKA
Lincoln, NE

S. 1	Nevada	
S. 8	@WAKE FOREST	
S. 15	USC	10-28
S. 22	Ball State	
S. 29	Iowa State	28-14
O. 6	@MISSOURI	34-20
O. 13	Oklahoma State	29-41
O. 20	Texas A&M	28-27
O. 27	@TEXAS	20-22
N. 3	@KANSAS	39-32 (OT)
N. 10	Kansas State	21-3
N. 23	@COLORADO	37-14

Coach: *Bill Callahan* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Cream* ***Nickname:*** *Cornhuskers* ***2006 Record:*** *9-4*

NEVADA
Reno, NV

S. 1	@NEBRASKA	
S. 8	@NORTHWESTERN	31-21
S. 15	Nicholls State	
S. 29	UNLV	31-3
O. 6	Fresno State	19-28
O. 14	@BOISE STATE	7-38
O. 20	@UTAH STATE	42-0
O. 27	Idaho	45-7
N. 2	@NEW MEXICO STATE	48-21
N. 16	Hawaii	34-41
N. 24	@SAN JOSE STATE	23-7
D. 1	Louisiana Tech	42-0

Coach: *Chris Ault* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & Silver* ***Nickname:*** *Wolf Pack* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Durham, NH

S. 8	@JAMES MADISON	23-42
S. 15	@MARSHALL	
S. 22	Dartmouth	56-14
S. 29	@RICHMOND	27-17
O. 6	Delaware	52-49
O. 13	Iona	
O. 20	@HOFSTRA	10-6
O. 27	Rhode Island	63-21
N. 3	Northeastern	35-36 (OT)
N. 10	@MASSACHUSETTS	17-24
N. 17	Maine	19-13 (OT)

Coach: *Sean McDonnell* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2006 Record:*** *9-4*

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque, NM

S. 1	@UTEP	26-13
S. 8	New Mexico State	34-28
S. 15	@ARIZONA	
S. 22	Sacramento State	
S. 29	Brigham Young	17-42
O. 13	@WYOMING	10-14
O. 20	@SAN DIEGO STATE	41-14
O. 25	Air Force	7-24
N. 3	@TCU	21-27
N. 10	Colorado State	20-19
N. 17	@UTAH	34-31
N. 24	UNLV	39-36 (OT)

Coach: *Rocky Long* ***Colors:*** *Cherry & Sliver* ***Nickname:*** *Lobos* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

NEW MEXICO STATE
Las Cruces, NM

A. 30	Southeastern Louisiana	30-15
S. 8	@NEW MEXICO	28-34
S. 15	UTEP	38-44
S. 22	@AUBURN	
S. 29	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	
O. 7	@BOISE STATE	28-40
O. 13	@LOUISIANA TECH	50-23
O. 20	Idaho	20-28
O. 27	@HAWAII	30-49
N. 2	Nevada	21-48
N. 10	@SAN JOSE STATE	21-31
N. 17	Utah State	42-20
D. 1	Fresno State	18-23

Coach: *Hal Mumme* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & White* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

NICHOLLS STATE
Thibodaux, LA

S. 1	@RICE	
S. 8	Southern Arkansas	35-0
S. 15	@NEVADA	
S. 22	Azusa Pacific	
O. 6	Northwestern State	0-9
O. 13	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	13-16
O. 20	McNeese State	10-26
O. 27	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	
N. 3	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	7-37
N. 10	Texas State	21-19
N. 17	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	14-10

Coach: *Jay Thomas* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal, Gray & Royal* ***Nickname:*** *Colonels* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

NORFOLK STATE
Norfolk, VA

S. 1	Virginia State	29-14
S. 15	@RUTGERS	
S. 22	Bethune-Cookman	21-22
S. 29	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	42-20
O. 6	South Carolina State	10-47
O. 13	Hampton	13-42
O. 18	@FLORIDA A&M	33-36 (OT)
O. 27	Howard	10-13
N. 3	@MORGAN STATE	20-29
N. 10	@DELAWARE STATE	10-33
N. 17	Winston-Salem State	31-14

Coach: *Pete Adrion* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Spartans* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

NORTH CAROLINA
Chapel Hill, NC

S. 1	James Madison	
S. 8	@EAST CAROLINA	
S. 15	Virginia	0-23
S. 22	@SOUTH FLORIDA	20-37
S. 29	@VIRGINIA TECH	10-35
O. 6	Miami (FL)	7-27
O. 13	South Carolina	
O. 27	@WAKE FOREST	17-24
N. 3	Maryland	
N. 10	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	23-9
N. 17	@GEORGIA TECH	0-7
N. 24	Duke	45-44

Coach: *Butch Davis* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Tar Heels* ***2006 Record:*** *3-9*

NORTH CAROLINA A&T
Greensboro, NC

S. 1	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE	14-41
S. 8	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M*	
S. 15	Hampton	14-48
S. 22	North Carolina Central	
S. 29	Norfolk State	20-42
O. 6	@MORGAN STATE	0-32
O. 13	Delaware State	21-37
O. 20	@HOWARD	0-26
O. 27	Bethune-Cookman	7-70
N. 3	@FLORIDA A&M	12-45
N. 17	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	19-41

** At Los Angeles, CA*
Coach: *Lee Fobbs Jr.* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2006 Record:*** *0-11*

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
Durham, NC

A. 25	@ALBANY STATE	20-0
S. 2	Fayetteville State	49-6
S. 8	Saint Augustine's	27-18
S. 15	Elizabeth City State	17-14
S. 22	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	
S. 29	Presbyterian	
O. 6	@WEST ALABAMA	
O. 13	North Greenville	
O. 20	@SAVANNAH STATE	
O. 27	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	
N. 10	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE	

Coach: *Mose Rison* ***Colors:*** *Maroan & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Eagles* ***2006 Record:*** *11-1*

NORTH CAROLINA STATE
Raleigh, NC

S. 1	UCF	
S. 8	@BOSTON COLLEGE	17-15
S. 15	Wofford	
S. 22	Clemson	14-20
S. 29	Louisville	
O. 6	@FLORIDA STATE	24-20
O. 20	@EAST CAROLINA	16-21
O. 27	Virginia	7-14
N. 3	@MIAMI (FL)	
N. 10	North Carolina	9-23
N. 17	@WAKE FOREST	23-25
N. 24	Maryland	20-26

Coach: *Tom O'Brien* ***Colors:*** *Red & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wolfpack* ***2006 Record:*** *3-9*

NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Fargo, ND

S. 8	Stephen F. Austin	17-9
S. 15	Sam Houston State	
S. 22	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
S. 29	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	
O. 6	UC Davis	28-24
O. 13	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	45-0
O. 20	@MINNESOTA	9-10
O. 27	Southern Utah	31-7
N. 3	Illinois State	
N. 10	@CAL POLY	51-14
N. 17	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	41-28

Coach: *Craig Bohl* ***Colors:*** *Green & Yellow* ***Nickname:*** *Bison* ***2006 Record:*** *10-1*

NORTH TEXAS
Denton, TX

S. 1	@OKLAHOMA	
S. 8	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	24-6
S. 22	Florida Atlantic	16-17
S. 29	@ARKANSAS	
O. 6	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	16-7
O. 13	Louisiana-Monroe	3-23
O. 20	@TROY	6-14
O. 27	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	0-35
N. 10	Navy	
N. 17	@ARKANSAS STATE	10-29
N. 24	Western Kentucky	
D. 1	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	25-22 (OT)

Coach: *Todd Dodge* ***Colors:*** *Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Mean Green* ***2006 Record:*** *3-9*

NORTHEASTERN
Boston, MA

S. 1	@NORTHWESTERN	
S. 8	Richmond	7-12
S. 15	Northwestern State	
S. 22	@UC DAVIS	
O. 6	James Madison	14-52
O. 13	@DELAWARE	27-24
O. 20	@MASSACHUSETTS	0-7
O. 27	Maine	3-30
N. 3	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	36-35 (OT)
N. 10	Hofstra	34-24
N. 17	@RHODE ISLAND	45-31

Coach: *Racky Hager* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Huskies* ***2006 Record:*** *5-6*

NORTHERN ARIZONA
Flagstaff, AZ

A. 30	Western New Mexico	
S. 8	@ARIZONA	
S. 15	@APPALACHIAN STATE	
S. 22	Northern Colorado	54-3
S. 29	@SACRAMENTO STATE	39-22
O. 6	@PORTLAND STATE	26-34
O. 13	Idaho State	33-27
O. 20	@WEBER STATE	42-17
O. 27	Montana	21-24
N. 3	@MONTANA STATE	32-39
N. 10	Eastern Washington	44-36

Coach: *Jerame Souers* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Lumberjacks* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

NORTHERN COLORADO
Greeley, CO

S. 1	@HAWAII	
S. 15	@SAN DIEGO	
S. 22	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	3-54
S. 29	@CAL POLY	
O. 6	@IDAHO STATE	13-41
O. 13	Weber State	21-26
O. 20	@MONTANA	21-53
O. 27	Montana State	10-13
N. 3	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	0-34
N. 10	Sacramento State	9-14
N. 17	Portland State	3-45

Coach: *Scatt Dawning* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Bears* ***2006 Record:*** *1-10*

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
De Kalb, IL

S. 1	Iowa*	14-24
S. 8	Southern Illinois	
S. 15	Eastern Michigan	27-0
S. 22	@IDAHO	
S. 29	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	31-10
O. 6	@TEMPLE	43-21
O. 13	Western Michigan	14-16
O. 20	@WISCONSIN	
O. 27	@TOLEDO	13-17
N. 10	Kent State	
N. 17	@NAVY	
N. 24	Ball State	40-28

** At Chicago, IL*
Coach: *Joe Novak* ***Colors:*** *Cordinal & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Huskies* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

NORTHERN IOWA
Cedar Falls, IA

A. 30	Minnesota State-Mankato	
S. 8	@IOWA STATE	27-28
S. 15	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	27-17
S. 22	@DRAKE	48-7
S. 29	@ILLINOIS STATE	38-27
O. 13	Southern Illinois	23-47
O. 20	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	13-24
O. 27	Youngstown State	31-23
N. 3	@MISSOURI STATE	38-7
N. 10	Indiana State	34-14
N. 17	Southern Utah	

Coach: *Mark Farley* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Old Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Panthers* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

NORTHWESTERN
Evanston, IL

S. 1	Northeastern	
S. 8	Nevada	21-31
S. 15	Duke	
S. 22	@OHIO STATE	10-54
S. 29	Michigan	3-17
O. 6	@MICHIGAN STATE	38-41
O. 13	Minnesota	
O. 19	@EASTERN MICHIGAN*	14-6
O. 27	@PURDUE	10-31
N. 3	Iowa	21-7
N. 10	Indiana	
N. 17	@ILLINOIS	27-16

** At Detroit, MI*
Coach: *Pat Fitzgerald* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

NORTHWESTERN STATE
Natchitaches, LA

S. 1	Henderson State	
S. 8	Central Arkansas	
S. 15	@NORTHEASTERN	
S. 29	@TEXAS TECH	
O. 6	@NICHOLLS STATE	9-0
O. 13	Southeastern Louisiana	24-31 (OT)
O. 20	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	20-30
O. 27	Texas State	19-10
N. 3	@MISSISSIPPI	7-27
N. 10	@MCNEESE STATE	26-29 (OT)
N. 17	Stephen F. Austin	11-20

Coach: *Scott Stoker* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Demons* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

NOTRE DAME
Notre Dame, IN

S. 1	Georgia Tech	14-10
S. 8	@PENN STATE	41-17
S. 15	@MICHIGAN	21-47
S. 22	Michigan State	40-37
S. 29	@PURDUE	35-21
O. 6	@UCLA	20-17
O. 13	Boston College	
O. 20	USC	24-44
N. 3	Navy	38-14
N. 10	Air Force	39-17
N. 17	Duke	
N. 24	@STANFORD	31-10

Coach: *Charlie Weis* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Blue*
Nickname: *Fighting Irish* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

OHIO
Athens, OH

S. 1	Gardner-Webb	
S. 8	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
S. 15	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S. 22	Wyoming	
S. 29	Kent State	17-7
O. 6	@BUFFALO	42-7
O. 13	Eastern Michigan	16-10
O. 20	@TOLEDO	
O. 27	@BOWLING GREEN	9-21
N. 2	Temple	
N. 7	@AKRON	17-7
N. 24	Miami (OH)	34-24

Coach: *Frank Solich* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Bobcats* ***2006 Record:*** *9-4*

OHIO STATE
Columbus, OH

S. 1	Youngstown State	
S. 8	Akron	
S. 15	@WASHINGTON	
S. 22	Northwestern	54-10
S. 29	@MINNESOTA	44-0
O. 6	@PURDUE	
O. 13	Kent State	
O. 20	Michigan State	38-7
O. 27	@PENN STATE	28-6
N. 3	Wisconsin	
N. 10	Illinois	17-10
N. 17	@MICHIGAN	42-39

Coach: *Jim Tressel* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Gray*
Nickname: *Buckeyes 2006 Record: 12-0*

OKLAHOMA
Norman, OK

S. 1	North Texas	
S. 8	Miami (FL)	
S. 15	Utah State	
S. 21	@TULSA	
S. 29	@COLORADO	24-3
O. 6	@TEXAS*	10-28
O. 13	Missouri	26-10
O. 20	@IOWA STATE	34-9
N. 3	Texas A&M	17-16
N. 10	Baylor	36-10
N. 17	@TEXAS TECH	34-24
N. 24	Oklahoma State	27-21

** At Dallas, TX*
Coach: *Bob Stoops* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Cream*
Nickname: *Sooners* ***2006 Record:*** *11-2*

OKLAHOMA STATE
Stillwater, OK

S. 1	@GEORGIA	
S. 8	Florida Atlantic	48-8
S. 14	@TROY	
S. 22	Texas Tech	24-30
S. 29	Sam Houston State	
O. 6	@TEXAS A&M	33-34 (OT)
O. 13	@NEBRASKA	41-29
O. 20	Kansas State	27-31
N. 3	Texas	10-36
N. 10	Kansas	42-32
N. 17	@BAYLOR	66-24
N. 24	@OKLAHOMA	21-27

Coach: *Mike Gundy* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Cowboys* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

OREGON
Eugene, OR

S. 1	Houston	
S. 8	@MICHIGAN	
S. 15	Fresno State	31-24
S. 22	@STANFORD	48-10
S. 29	California	24-45
O. 13	Washington State	23-34
O. 20	@WASHINGTON	34-14
O. 27	USC	10-35
N. 3	@ARIZONA STATE	48-13
N. 15	@ARIZONA	10-37
N. 24	@UCLA	30-20
D. 1	Oregon State	28-30

Coach: *Mike Bellotti* ***Colors:*** *Emerald Green & Lemon Yellow* ***Nickname:*** *Ducks* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

OREGON STATE
Corvallis, OR

A. 30	Utah	
S. 6	@CINCINNATI	
S. 15	Idaho State	
S. 22	@ARIZONA STATE	44-10
S. 29	UCLA	7-25
O. 6	Arizona	17-10
O. 13	@CALIFORNIA	13-41
O. 27	Stanford	30-7
N. 3	@USC	33-31
N. 10	Washington	27-17
N. 17	@WASHINGTON STATE	6-13
D. 1	@OREGON	30-28

Coach: *Mike Riley* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Beavers* ***2006 Record:*** *9-4*

PENN STATE
University Park, PA

S. 1	Florida International	
S. 8	Notre Dame	17-41
S. 15	Buffalo	
S. 22	@MICHIGAN	10-17
S. 29	@ILLINOIS	26-12
O. 6	Iowa	
O. 13	Wisconsin	3-13
O. 20	@INDIANA	
O. 27	Ohio State	6-28
N. 3	Purdue	12-0
N. 10	@TEMPLE	47-0
N. 17	@MICHIGAN STATE	17-13

Coach: *Joe Paterno* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Nittany Lions* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia, PA

S. 15	Lafayette	21-11
S. 22	@VILLANOVA	20-27
S. 29	@DARTMOUTH	17-10
O. 6	Georgetown	
O. 13	@COLUMBIA	16-0
O. 20	Yale	14-17 (OT)
O. 27	@BROWN	27-30 (OT)
N. 3	Princeton	30-31 (OT)
N. 10	@HARVARD	22-13
N. 17	Cornell	27-28

Coach: *Al Bagnoli* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Quakers* ***2006 Record:*** *5-5*

PITTSBURGH
Pittsburgh, PA

S. 1	Eastern Michigan	
S. 8	Grambling State	
S. 15	@MICHIGAN STATE	23-38
S. 22	Connecticut	45-46 (OT)
S. 29	@VIRGINIA	38-13
O. 10	Navy	
O. 20	Cincinnati	33-15
O. 27	@LOUISVILLE	24-48
N. 3	Syracuse	21-11
N. 17	@RUTGERS	10-20
N. 24	South Florida	12-22
D. 1	@WEST VIRGINIA	27-45

Coach: *Dave Wannstedt* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Panthers* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

PORTLAND STATE
Portland, OR

S. 1	@MCNEESE STATE	
S. 8	UC Davis	
S. 15	Sacramento State	13-7
S. 22	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
S. 29	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	34-0
O. 6	Northern Arizona	34-26
O. 20	@IDAHO STATE	34-13
O. 27	Weber State	20-10
N. 3	@MONTANA	20-26
N. 10	Montana State	0-14
N. 17	@NORTHERN COLORADO	45-3

Coach: *Jerry Glanville* ***Colors:*** *Forest Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Vikings* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
Prairie View, TX

S. 1	@TEXAS SOUTHERN*	14-17
S. 8	North Carolina A&T**	
S. 15	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	26-23 (OT)
S. 29	Grambling State***	7-53
O. 6	@ALCORN STATE	14-17
O. 13	@ALABAMA STATE	7-10
O. 27	Mississippi Valley State	10-14
N. 3	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	21-28
N. 10	Jackson State	7-31
N. 17	Alabama A&M	13-7

** At Houston, TX*
*** At Los Angeles, CA*
**** At Dallas, TX*
Coach: *Henry Frazier* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Panthers* ***2006 Record:*** *3-7*

PRESBYTERIAN
Clinton, SC

S. 1	@FURMAN	
S. 8	Pikeville	
S. 13	@SAMFORD	
S. 22	@WESTERN CAROLINA	
S. 29	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	
O. 6	North Greenville	
O. 13	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	
O. 20	@COASTAL CAROLINA	
O. 27	@LIBERTY	
N. 3	Chowan	
N. 10	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	

Coach: *Babby Bentley* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Blue*
Nickname: *Blue Hose* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

PRINCETON
Princeton, NJ

S. 15	Lehigh	14-10
S. 22	@LAFAYETTE	26-14
S. 29	Columbia	19-6
O. 6	Hampton	
O. 13	@BROWN	17-3
O. 20	@HARVARD	31-28
O. 27	Cornell	7-14
N. 3	@PENNSYLVANIA	31-30 (OT)
N. 10	Yale	34-31
N. 17	@DARTMOUTH	27-17

Coach: *Roger Hughes* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *9-1*

PURDUE
West Lafayette, IN

S. 1	@TOLEDO	
S. 8	Eastern Illinois	
S. 15	Central Michigan	
S. 22	@MINNESOTA	27-21
S. 29	Notre Dame	21-35
O. 6	Ohio State	
O. 13	@MICHIGAN	
O. 20	Iowa	17-47
O. 27	Northwestern	31-10
N. 3	@PENN STATE	0-12
N. 10	Michigan State	17-15
N. 17	@INDIANA	28-19

Coach: *Joe Tiller* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Boilermakers* ***2006 Record:*** *8-5*

RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, RI

S. 1	Fordham	
S. 8	@ARMY	
S. 15	@DELAWARE	17-24
S. 22	Hofstra	20-13
S. 29	@BROWN	28-21
O. 13	James Madison	23-35
O. 20	@RICHMOND	6-31
O. 27	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	21-63
N. 3	Massachusetts	16-41
N. 10	@MAINE	3-0
N. 17	Northeastern	31-45

Coach: *Tim Stowers* ***Colors:*** *Columbia Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Rams* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

RICE
Houston, TX

S. 1	Nicholls State	
S. 8	@BAYLOR	
S. 15	Texas Tech	
S. 22	@TEXAS	7-52
O. 3	@SOUTHERN MISS	
O. 13	@HOUSTON	30-31
O. 20	Memphis	
O. 27	@MARSHALL	
N. 3	UTEP	37-31
N. 10	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	31-27
N. 17	Tulane	24-38
N. 24	Tulsa	41-38 (OT)

Coach: *David Bailiff* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Owls* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

RICHMOND
Richmond, VA

S. 1	@VANDERBILT	
S. 8	@NORTHEASTERN	12-7
S. 22	@BUCKNELL	48-21
S. 29	New Hampshire	17-27
O. 6	@TOWSON	7-31
O. 13	Stony Brook	
O. 20	Rhode Island	31-6
O. 27	@JAMES MADISON	10-27
N. 3	Villanova	21-31
N. 10	@DELAWARE	24-28
N. 17	William & Mary	31-14

Coach: *Dave Clawson* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Spiders* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

ROBERT MORRIS
Moon Tawnship, PA

S. 1	Dayton	14-21
S. 8	@DUQUESNE	7-27
S. 15	St. Francis (PA)	45-13
S. 22	@MOREHEAD STATE	
S. 29	Virginia Military	
O. 6	Wagner	14-10
O. 13	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT ST.	23-17 (OT)
O. 20	@MONMOUTH	7-16
N. 3	@ALBANY	6-16
N. 10	Sacred Heart	41-21

Coach: *Joe Walton* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Colonials* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

RUTGERS
Piscataway, NJ

A. 30	Buffalo	
S. 7	Navy	34-0
S. 15	Norfolk State	
S. 29	Maryland	
O. 6	Cincinnati	11-30
O. 13	@SYRACUSE	38-7
O. 18	South Florida	22-20
O. 27	West Virginia	39-41 (OT)
N. 3	@CONNECTICUT	24-13
N. 9	@ARMY	
N. 17	Pittsburgh	20-10
N. 29	@LOUISVILLE	28-25

Coach: *Greg Schiano* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet*
Nickname: *Scarlet Knights* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

SACRAMENTO STATE
Sacramento, CA

S. 1	@FRESNO STATE	
S. 15	@PORTLAND STATE	7-13
S. 22	@NEW MEXICO	
S. 29	Northern Arizona	22-39
O. 6	@WEBER STATE	24-21
O. 13	Montana	14-59
O. 20	@MONTANA STATE	18-21
O. 27	Eastern Washington	21-20
N. 3	UC Davis	16-30
N. 10	@NORTHERN COLORADO	14-9
N. 17	Idaho State	22-14

Coach: *Marshall Sperbeck* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Hornets* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

SACRED HEART
Fairfield, CT

A. 30	@ASSUMPTION	
S. 8	La Salle	
S. 15	@IONA	27-16
S. 22	Duquesne	21-24
S. 29	@WAGNER	25-17
O. 6	Monmouth	0-24
O. 13	@ALBANY	13-24
O. 27	St. Francis (PA)	14-21
N. 3	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	14-42
N. 10	@ROBERT MORRIS	21-41

Coach: *Paul Gorham* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Pioneers* ***2006 Record:*** *2-9*

SAM HOUSTON STATE
Huntsville, TX

A. 30	Angelo State	
S. 8	Arkansas-Monticello	41-3
S. 15	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
S. 29	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
O. 6	Central Arkansas	30-38
O. 13	@MCNEESE STATE	18-31
O. 20	Northwestern State	30-20
O. 27	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	21-17
N. 3	Nicholls State	37-7
N. 10	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	28-23
N. 17	@TEXAS STATE	21-28

Coach: *Todd Whitten* ***Colors:*** *Orange & White*
Nickname: *Bearkats* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

SAMFORD
Birmingham, AL

A. 30	West Alabama	
S. 8	@GEORGIA TECH	6-38
S. 13	Presbyterian	
S. 22	Southeast Missouri State	14-19
S. 29	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	12-31
O. 13	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	6-10
O. 20	Austin Peay	17-10
O. 27	@TENNESSEE TECH	14-20
N. 3	Jacksonville State	7-55
N. 10	Tennessee State	7-29
N. 17	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	13-24

Coach: *Pat Sullivan* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2006 Record:*** *3-8*

SAN DIEGO
San Diega, CA

S. 1	@AZUSA PACIFIC	27-0
S. 8	Marist	
S. 15	Northern Colorado	
S. 29	@BUTLER	56-3
O. 6	@VALPARAISO	68-7
O. 13	Drake	37-0
O. 20	Jacksonville	38-21
O. 27	@DAYTON	56-14
N. 3	Davidson	50-21
N. 10	@MOREHEAD STATE	44-21
N. 17	@UC Davis	27-37

Coach: *Ron Caragher* ***Colors:*** *Navy, Columbia Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Toreros* ***2006 Record:*** *11-1*

SAN DIEGO STATE
San Diega, CA

S. 8	@WASHINGTON STATE*	
S. 15	@ARIZONA STATE	
S. 22	Portland State	
S. 29	Cincinnati	
O. 6	@COLORADO STATE	17-6
O. 13	@UTAH	7-38
O. 20	New Mexico	14-41
O. 27	Brigham Young	17-47
N. 3	Wyoming	24-27
N. 10	@UNLV	21-7
N. 17	@AIR FORCE	19-12
N. 24	TCU	0-52

** At Seattle, WA*
Coach: *Chuck Long* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Aztecs* ***2006 Record:*** *3-9*

SAN JOSE STATE
San Jose, CA

S. 1	@ARIZONA STATE	
S. 8	@KANSAS STATE	
S. 15	@STANFORD	35-34
S. 22	@UTAH STATE	21-14
S. 29	UC Davis	
O. 6	Idaho	28-13
O. 12	Hawaii	17-54
O. 20	@FRESNO STATE	24-14
N. 3	@BOISE STATE	20-23
N. 10	New Mexico State	31-21
N. 17	@LOUISIANA TECH	44-10
N. 24	Nevada	7-23

Coach: *Dick Tomey* ***Colors:*** *Gold, Blue & White*
Nickname: *Spartans* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

SAVANNAH STATE
Savannah, GA

A. 30	@MORGAN STATE	
S. 8	Johnson C. Smith	6-27
S. 15	Bethune-Cookman	6-55
S. 29	@FORT VALLEY STATE	
O. 6	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	13-38
O. 13	Morehouse*	24-20
O. 20	North Carolina Central	
O. 27	Edward Waters	28-7
N. 3	@GARDNER-WEBB	
N. 17	Mississippi Valley State	

** At Augusta, GA*
Coach: *Thea Leman* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *2-9*

SOUTH CAROLINA
Columbia, SC

S. 1	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S. 8	@GEORGIA	0-18
S. 15	South Carolina State	
S. 22	@LSU	
S. 29	Mississippi State	15-0
O. 4	Kentucky	24-17
O. 13	@NORTH CAROLINA	
O. 20	Vanderbilt	31-13
O. 27	@TENNESSEE	24-31
N. 3	@ARKANSAS	20-26
N. 10	Florida	16-17
N. 24	Clemson	31-28

Coach: *Steve Spurrier* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Black*
Nickname: *Gamecocks* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Orangeburg, SC

S. 1	@AIR FORCE	
S. 8	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	21-45
S. 15	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
S. 22	Winston-Salem State	35-6
O. 6	@NORFOLK STATE	47-10
O. 13	Florida A&M	28-21
O. 20	@HAMPTON	13-6
O. 27	Delaware State	9-10
N. 3	@HOWARD	28-10
N. 10	Morgan State	41-16
N. 17	North Carolina A&T	41-19

Coach: *Buddy Pough* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
Brookings, SD

A. 30	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	
S. 8	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
S. 15	Northern Iowa	17-27
S. 22	Texas State	
S. 29	Stephen F. Austin	
O. 6	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	
O. 20	Cal Poly	29-28
O. 27	@UC DAVIS	22-21
N. 3	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	20-7
N. 10	Southern Utah	31-21
N. 17	North Dakota State	28-41

Coach: *John Stiegelmeier* ***Colors:*** *Yellow & Blue*
Nickname: *Jackrabbits* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

SOUTH FLORIDA
Tampa, FL

S. 1	Elon	
S. 8	@AUBURN	
S. 22	North Carolina	37-20
S. 28	West Virginia	24-19
O. 6	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
O. 13	UCF	24-17
O. 18	@RUTGERS	20-22
O. 27	@CONNECTICUT	38-16
N. 3	Cincinnati	6-23
N. 10	@SYRACUSE	27-10
N. 17	Louisville	8-31
N. 24	@PITTSBURGH	22-12

Coach: *Jim Leavitt* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Bulls* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
Cape Girardeau, MO

A. 30	@CINCINNATI*	
S. 8	Southwest Baptist	
S. 15	Indiana State	
S. 22	@SAMFORD	19-14
S. 29	Eastern Illinois	0-21
O. 13	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	21-27
O. 20	Murray State	24-17
O. 27	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	14-28
N. 3	Austin Peay	38-13
N. 10	@MISSOURI STATE	
N. 17	Jacksonville State	7-38

** At Toronto, ON*
Coach: *Tony Samuel* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Redhawks* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Hammond, LA

A. 30	@NEW MEXICO STATE	15-30
S. 8	@KANSAS	
S. 15	Kentucky Wesleyan	
S. 22	@TULANE	
O. 6	Stephen F. Austin	10-35
O. 13	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	31-24 (OT)
O. 20	Central Arkansas	
O. 27	@MCNEESE STATE	13-34
N. 3	@TEXAS STATE	17-38
N. 10	Sam Houston State	23-28
N. 17	Nicholls State	10-14

Coach: *Mike Lucas* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal, Silver & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Lions* ***2006 Record:*** *2-9*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Carbondale, IL

A. 30	Quincy	
S. 8	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
S. 15	@SOUTHERN UTAH	59-0
S. 22	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	48-16
S. 29	@INDIANA STATE	55-3
O. 6	Youngstown State	24-31
O. 13	@NORTHERN IOWA	47-23
O. 20	Missouri State	27-17
N. 3	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	31-24
N. 10	Illinois State	10-37
N. 17	@HAMPTON	

Coach: *Jerry Kill* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Salukis* ***2006 Record:*** *9-4*

SOUTHERN METHODIST
Dallas, TX

S. 3	Texas Tech	3-35
S. 8	North Texas	6-24
S. 15	@ARKANSAS STATE	55-9
S. 22	@TCU	
S. 29	UTEP	21-24
O. 13	@SOUTHERN MISS	
O. 20	Tulane	33-28
O. 27	@TULSA	34-24
N. 4	@HOUSTON	27-37
N. 10	Rice	27-31
N. 17	UCF	
N. 24	@MEMPHIS	

Coach: *Phil Bennett* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Mustangs* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

SOUTHERN MISS
Hattiesburg, MS

S. 1	Tennessee-Martin	
S. 8	@TENNESSEE	
S. 15	@EAST CAROLINA	17-20 (OT)
S. 27	@BOISE STATE	
O. 3	Rice	
O. 13	Southern Methodist	
O. 21	@MARSHALL	42-7
O. 28	UCF	19-14
N. 3	@UAB	25-20
N. 10	Memphis	42-21
N. 17	@UTEP	
N. 24	Arkansas State	

Coach: *Jeff Bower* ***Colors:*** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Eagles* ***2006 Record:*** *8-5*

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Baton Rouge, LA

S. 1	@FLORIDA A&M*	
S. 8	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	31-14
S. 15	Prairie View A&M	23-26 (OT)
S. 22	Tennessee State	
S. 29	@ALABAMA STATE**	38-20
O. 6	Alabama A&M	21-28
O. 13	Jackson State	28-31 (OT)
O. 20	Alcorn State	10-26
N. 3	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	34-17
N. 10	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	20-45
N. 24	@GRAMBLING STATE***	21-17

** At Birmingham, AL*
*** At Mobile, AL*
**** At New Orleans, LA*
Coach: *Pete Richardson* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Jaguars* ***2006 Record:*** *5-6*

SOUTHERN UTAH
Cedar City, UT

S. 1	@MONTANA	
S. 8	North Dakota	
S. 15	Southern Illinois	0-59
S. 22	McNeese State	27-30
O. 6	@MONTANA STATE	
O. 13	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
O. 20	UC Davis	7-27
O. 27	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	7-31
N. 3	Cal Poly	14-18
N. 10	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	21-31
N. 17	@NORTHERN IOWA	

Coach: *Wes Meier* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet, Royal Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Thunderbirds* ***2006 Record:*** *3-8*

ST. FRANCIS (PA)
Loretto, PA

S. 1	St. Peter's	38-3
S. 8	Morehead State	
S. 15	@ROBERT MORRIS	13-45
S. 29	@LIBERTY	
O. 6	Central Connecticut State	21-62
O. 13	Duquesne	10-41
O. 20	Albany	0-48
O. 27	@SACRED HEART	21-14
N. 3	Monmouth	20-54
N. 10	@WAGNER	35-14
N. 17	@LA SALLE	21-24

Coach: *Dave Opfar* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Red Flash* ***2006 Record:*** *3-8*

ST. PETER'S
Jersey City, NJ

S. 1	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	3-38
S. 8	Western Connecticut State	3-21
S. 15	Monmouth	12-36
S. 22	Wagner	0-34
S. 29	@DUQUESNE	21-35
O. 6	@SALISBURY UNIVERSITY	26-23
O. 13	Geneva College	
O. 20	Marist	18-35
O. 27	@LA SALLE	28-37
N. 3	Iona	30-15

Coach: *Chris Taylor* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Peacocks* ***2006*** *Record: 2-8*

STANFORD
Stanford, CA

S. 1	UCLA	0-31
S. 15	San Jose State	34-35
S. 22	Oregon	10-48
S. 29	Arizona State	3-38
O. 6	@USC	0-42
O. 13	TCU	
O. 20	@ARIZONA	7-20
O. 27	@OREGON STATE	7-30
N. 3	Washington	20-3
N. 10	@WASHINGTON STATE	10-36
N. 24	Notre Dame	10-31
D. 1	California	17-26

Coach: *Jim Harbaugh* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Cardinal* ***2006 Record:*** *1-11*

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Nacogdoches, TX

S. 1	Tarleton State	
S. 8	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	9-17
S. 22	Western Illinois	
S. 29	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	
O. 6	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	35-10
O. 13	Nicholls State	16-13
O. 20	@TEXAS STATE	24-13
O. 27	Sam Houston State	17-21
N. 3	McNeese State	17-20
N. 10	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	35-37
N. 17	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	20-11

Coach: *J.C. Harper* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Lumberjacks* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

STONY BROOK
Stony Brook, NY

S. 1	Georgetown	0-7
S. 8	@BUCKNELL	
S. 15	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
S. 22	Monmouth	36-17
S. 29	@HOFSTRA	8-17
O. 6	@ALBANY	33-21
O. 13	@RICHMOND	
O. 20	Maine	
O. 27	Bryant College	
N. 10	Central Connecticut State	32-35
N. 17	@ELON	

Coach: *Chuck Priore* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Grey*
Nickname: *Seawolves* ***2006 Record:*** *5-6*

SYRACUSE
Syracuse, NY

A. 31	Washington	
S. 8	@IOWA	13-20 (OT)
S. 15	Illinois	31-21
S. 22	@LOUISVILLE	13-28
S. 29	@MIAMI (OH)	34-14
O. 6	West Virginia	17-41
O. 13	Rutgers	7-38
O. 20	Buffalo	
N. 3	@PITTSBURGH	11-21
N. 10	South Florida	10-27
N. 17	@CONNECTICUT	20-14
N. 24	Cincinnati	3-17

Coach: *Greg Robinson* ***Colors:*** *Orange*
Nickname: *Orange* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

TCU
Fort Worth, TX

S. 1	Baylor	17-7
S. 8	@TEXAS	
S. 13	@AIR FORCE	38-14
S. 22	Southern Methodist	
S. 29	Colorado State	45-14
O. 6	@WYOMING	26-3
O. 13	@STANFORD	
O. 18	Utah	7-20
N. 3	New Mexico	27-21
N. 8	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	17-31
N. 17	UNLV	25-10
N. 24	@SAN DIEGO STATE	52-0

Coach: *Gary Patterson* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Horned Frogs* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

TEMPLE
Philadelphia, PA

A. 31	Navy	6-42
S. 8	Buffalo	3-9 (OT)
S. 15	@CONNECTICUT	
S. 22	@BOWLING GREEN	28-14
S. 29	@ARMY	
O. 6	Northern Illinois	21-43
O. 13	@AKRON	
O. 20	Miami (OH)	
N. 2	@OHIO	
N. 10	Penn State	0-47
N. 17	Kent State	17-28
N. 24	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	7-41

Coach: *Al Golden* ***Colors:*** *Cherry & White*
Nickname: *Owls* ***2006 Record:*** *1-11*

TENNESSEE
Knoxville, TN

S. 1	@CALIFORNIA	35-18
S. 8	Southern Miss	
S. 15	@FLORIDA	20-21
S. 22	Arkansas State	
O. 6	Georgia	51-33
O. 13	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
O. 20	@ALABAMA	16-13
O. 27	South Carolina	31-24
N. 3	Louisiana-Lafayette	
N. 10	Arkansas	14-31
N. 17	Vanderbilt	39-10
N. 24	@KENTUCKY	17-12

Coach: *Phillip Fulmer* ***Colors:*** *Orange & White*
Nickname: *Volunteers* ***2006 Record:*** *9-3*

TENNESSEE STATE
Nashville, TN

S. 1	Alabama A&M	20-27
S. 8	Jackson State*	31-30 (OT)
S. 15	@AUSTIN PEAY	
S. 22	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	
S. 29	@FLORIDA A&M**	22-25 (OT)
O. 11	@TENNESSEE TECH	30-20
O. 20	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	3-20
O. 27	Eastern Illinois	3-29
N. 3	Murray State	25-15
N. 10	@SAMFORD	29-7
N. 17	Tennessee-Martin	

** At Memphis, TN*
*** At Atlanta, GA*
Coach: *James Webster* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

TENNESSEE TECH
Cookeville, TN

A. 30	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	14-38
S. 6	Cumberland University	
S. 13	Concordia College	
S. 20	Murray State	20-14 (OT)
S. 27	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	16-35
O. 6	Austin Peay	
O. 11	Tennessee State	20-30
O. 20	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	10-17 (OT)
O. 27	Samford	20-14
N. 3	@AUBURN	
N. 17	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	27-14

Coach: *Watson Brown* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Eagles* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Martin, TN

S. 1	@SOUTHERN MISS	
S. 6	Missouri State	
S. 15	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	
S. 22	@AUSTIN PEAY	20-10
S. 27	Tennessee Tech	35-16
O. 4	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	24-14
O. 13	Samford	10-6
O. 20	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	15-9
O. 27	Southeast Missouri State	28-14
N. 10	Murray State	42-14
N. 17	@TENNESSEE STATE	

Coach: *Jason Simpson* ***Colors:*** *Orange, Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Skyhawks* ***2006 Record:*** *9-3*

TEXAS
Austin, TX

S. 1	Arkansas State	
S. 8	TCU	
S. 15	@UCF	
S. 22	Rice	52-7
S. 29	Kansas State	42-45
O. 6	Oklahoma*	28-10
O. 13	@IOWA STATE	37-14
O. 20	@BAYLOR	63-31
O. 27	Nebraska	22-20
N. 3	@OKLAHOMA STATE	36-10
N. 10	Texas Tech	35-31
N. 23	@TEXAS A&M	7-12

** At Dallas, TX*
Coach: *Mack Brown* ***Colors:*** *White & Burnt Orange*
Nickname: *Longhorns* ***2006 Record:*** *9-3*

TEXAS A&M
College Station, TX

S. 1	Montana State	
S. 8	Fresno State	
S. 15	Louisiana-Monroe	
S. 20	@MIAMI (FL)	
S. 29	Baylor	31-21
O. 6	Oklahoma State	34-33 (OT)
O. 13	@TEXAS TECH	27-31
O. 20	@NEBRASKA	27-28
O. 27	Kansas	21-18
N. 3	@OKLAHOMA	16-17
N. 10	@MISSOURI	25-19
N. 23	Texas	12-7

Coach: *Dennis Franchione* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2006 Record:*** *9-3*

TEXAS SOUTHERN
Houston, TX

S. 1	Prairie View A&M*	17-14
S. 8	Alabama State	10-9
S. 13	@JACKSON STATE	5-29
S. 22	@UTEP	
S. 29	@ALABAMA A&M	14-19
O. 13	Alcorn State	23-45
O. 20	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	18-20
O. 27	@GRAMBLING STATE	33-28
N. 3	Southern University	17-34
N. 17	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	31-42
N. 24	@HOUSTON	

** At Houston, TX*
Coach: *Steve Wilson* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gray*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *3-8*

TEXAS STATE
San Marcos, TX

S. 1	Cal Poly	
S. 8	Abilene Christian	
S. 15	@BAYLOR	
S. 22	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	
O. 6	McNeese State	27-17
O. 13	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	
O. 20	Stephen F. Austin	13-24
O. 27	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	10-19
N. 3	Southeastern Louisiana	38-17
N. 10	@NICHOLLS STATE	19-21
N. 17	Sam Houston State	28-21

Coach: *Brad Wright* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Bobcats* ***2006 Record:*** *5-6*

TEXAS TECH
Lubbock, TX

S. 3	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	35-3
S. 8	UTEP	38-35 (OT)
S. 15	@RICE	
S. 22	@OKLAHOMA STATE	30-24
S. 29	Northwestern State	
O. 6	Iowa State	42-26
O. 13	Texas A&M	31-27
O. 20	@MISSOURI	21-38
O. 27	Colorado	6-30
N. 3	@BAYLOR	55-21
N. 10	@TEXAS	31-35
N. 17	Oklahoma	24-34

Coach: *Mike Leach* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Red Raiders* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

TOLEDO
Toledo, OH

S. 1	Purdue	
S. 8	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	20-42
S. 15	@KANSAS	37-31 (OT)
S. 22	Iowa State	43-45 (OT)
S. 29	Western Michigan	10-31
O. 6	Liberty	
O. 13	@BUFFALO	
O. 20	Ohio	
O. 27	Northern Illinois	17-13
N. 3	Eastern Michigan	13-17
N. 13	@BALL STATE	17-20
N. 23	@BOWLING GREEN	31-21

Coach: *Tom Amstutz* ***Colors:*** *Midnight Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Rackets* ***2006 Record:*** *5-7*

TOWSON
Towson, MD

A. 30	Central Connecticut State	
S. 8	@MORGAN STATE	30-2
S. 15	@MASSACHUSETTS	0-35
S. 22	Delaware	49-35
S. 29	@WILLIAM & MARY	28-29
O. 6	Richmond	31-7
O. 13	Hofstra	33-30
O. 20	@COLGATE	
N. 3	@MAINE	7-28
N. 10	Villanova	21-13
N. 17	@JAMES MADISON	3-38

Coach: *Gordy Combs* ***Colors:*** *White, Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

TROY
Troy, AL

S. 1	@ARKANSAS	
S. 8	@FLORIDA	
S. 14	Oklahoma State	
S. 22	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	42-28
S. 29	Louisiana-Monroe	24-19
O. 6	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	26-13
O. 20	North Texas	14-6
O. 27	@ARKANSAS STATE	26-33
N. 3	@GEORGIA	
N. 10	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	
N. 20	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	21-20
D. 1	Florida Atlantic	24-17

Coach: *Larry Blakeney* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal, Silver & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Trojans* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

TULANE
New Orleans, LA

S. 8	Mississippi State	32-29
S. 15	Houston	7-45
S. 22	Southeastern Louisiana	
S. 29	LSU	7-49
O. 6	@ARMY	42-28
O. 13	@UAB	
O. 20	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	28-33
O. 27	Memphis	
N. 3	Tulsa	3-38
N. 10	UTEP	20-34
N. 17	@RICE	38-24
N. 24	@EAST CAROLINA	

Coach: *Bob Toledo* ***Colors:*** *Olive Green & Sky Blue*
Nickname: *Green Wave* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

TULSA
Tulsa, OK

A. 30	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
S. 15	Brigham Young	24-49
S. 21	Oklahoma	
S. 29	UAB	
O. 6	@UTEP	30-20
O. 13	Marshall	
O. 20	@UCF	
O. 27	Southern Methodist	24-34
N. 3	@TULANE	38-3

N. 10	Houston	10-27
N. 17	@ARMY	
N. 24	@RICE	38-41 (OT)

Coach: *Todd Graham* ***Colors:*** *Crimson, Royal Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Golden Hurricane* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

UAB
Birmingham, AL

S. 1	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S. 8	@FLORIDA STATE	
S. 15	Alcorn State	
S. 29	@TULSA	
O. 6	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	10-16 (OT)
O. 13	Tulane	
O. 20	Houston	
O. 27	@EAST CAROLINA	17-12
N. 3	Southern Miss	20-25
N. 10	UCF	22-31
N. 17	@MEMPHIS	35-29
N. 24	@MARSHALL	24-31

Coach: *Neil Calloway* ***Colors:*** *Green, Gold & White* ***Nickname:*** *Blazers* ***2006 Record:*** *3-9*

UCF
Orlando, FL

S. 1	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
S. 15	Texas	
S. 22	Memphis	26-24
S. 29	Louisiana-Lafayette	
O. 6	@EAST CAROLINA	10-23
O. 13	@SOUTH FLORIDA	17-24
O. 20	Tulsa	
O. 28	@SOUTHERN MISS	14-19
N. 3	Marshall	23-22
N. 10	@UAB	31-22
N. 17	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	
N. 24	UTEP	

Coach: *George O'Leary* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Golden Knights* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

UCLA
Los Angeles, CA

S. 1	@STANFORD	31-0
S. 8	Brigham Young	
S. 15	@UTAH	31-10
S. 22	Washington	19-29
S. 29	@OREGON STATE	25-7
O. 6	Notre Dame	17-20
O. 20	California	24-38
O. 27	@WASHINGTON STATE	15-37
N. 3	@ARIZONA	27-7
N. 10	Arizona State	24-12
N. 24	Oregon	20-30
D. 1	@USC	13-9

Coach: *Karl Dorrell* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Bruins* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

UNLV
Las Vegas, NV

A. 30	@UTAH STATE	
S. 8	Wisconsin	
S. 15	Hawaii	13-42
S. 22	Utah	23-45
S. 29	@NEVADA	3-31
O. 6	@AIR FORCE	42-39
O. 13	Brigham Young	7-52
O. 20	Colorado State	7-28
O. 27	@WYOMING	26-34
N. 10	San Diego State	7-21
N. 17	@TCU	10-25
N. 24	@NEW MEXICO	36-39 (OT)

Coach: *Mike Sanford* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Rebels* ***2006 Record:*** *2-10*

USC
Los Angeles, CA

S. 1	Idaho	
S. 15	@NEBRASKA	28-10
S. 22	Washington State	28-22
S. 29	@WASHINGTON	26-20
O. 6	Stanford	42-0
O. 13	Arizona	20-3
O. 20	@NOTRE DAME	44-24
O. 27	@OREGON	35-10
N. 3	Oregon State	31-33
N. 10	@CALIFORNIA	23-9
N. 22	@ARIZONA STATE	28-21
D. 1	UCLA	9-13

Coach: *Pete Carroll* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Trojans* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

UTAH
Salt Lake City, UT

A. 30	@OREGON STATE	
S. 8	Air Force	17-14
S. 15	UCLA	10-31
S. 22	@UNLV	45-23
S. 29	Utah State	48-0
O. 5	@LOUISVILLE	
O. 13	San Diego State	38-7
O. 18	@TCU	20-7
O. 27	@COLORADO STATE	35-22
N. 10	Wyoming	15-31
N. 17	New Mexico	31-34
N. 24	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	31-33

Coach: *Kyle Whittingham* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & White* ***Nickname:*** *Utes* ***2006 Record:*** *7-5*

UTAH STATE
Logan, UT

A. 30	UNLV	
S. 8	@WYOMING	7-38
S. 15	@OKLAHOMA	
S. 22	San Jose State	14-21
S. 29	@UTAH	0-48
O. 6	@HAWAII	10-63
O. 20	Nevada	0-42
O. 27	Louisiana Tech	35-48
N. 3	@FRESNO STATE	13-12
N. 10	Boise State	10-49
N. 17	@NEW MEXICO STATE	20-42
N. 24	@IDAHO	21-41

Coach: *Brent Guy* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2006 Record:*** *1-11*

UTEP
El Paso, TX

S. 1	New Mexico	13-26
S. 8	@TEXAS TECH	35-38 (OT)
S. 15	@NEW MEXICO STATE	44-38
S. 22	Texas Southern	
S. 29	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	24-21
O. 6	Tulsa	20-30
O. 13	East Carolina	
O. 27	Houston	17-34
N. 3	@RICE	31-37
N. 10	@TULANE	34-20
N. 17	Southern Miss	
N. 24	@UCF	

Coach: *Mike Price* ***Colors:*** *Orange, Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Miners* ***2006 Record:*** *5-7*

VALPARAISO
Valparaiso, IN

S. 1	St. Francis (IL)	
S. 8	@TRINITY INTERNATIONAL (IL)	20-39
S. 15	@KALAMAZOO	
S. 22	@MARIAN	
S. 29	@DRAKE	7-21
O. 6	San Diego	7-68
O. 13	Butler	10-32
O. 20	Dayton	7-51
O. 27	Morehead State	42-35
N. 3	@JACKSONVILLE	17-34
N. 10	@DAVIDSON	14-48

Coach: *Stacy Adams* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Crusaders* ***2006 Record:*** *3-8*

VANDERBILT
Nashville, TN

S. 1	Richmond	
S. 8	Alabama	10-13
S. 15	Mississippi	10-17
S. 29	Eastern Michigan	
O. 6	@AUBURN	
O. 13	Georgia	24-22
O. 20	@SOUTH CAROLINA	13-31
O. 27	Miami (OH)	
N. 3	@FLORIDA	19-25
N. 10	Kentucky	26-38
N. 17	@TENNESSEE	10-39
N. 24	Wake Forest	

Coach: *Bobby Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Commodores* ***2006 Record:*** *4-8*

VILLANOVA
Villanova, PA

S. 1	@MARYLAND	
S. 8	@LEHIGH	28-31
S. 15	Maine	7-20
S. 22	Pennsylvania	27-20
S. 29	@JAMES MADISON	21-20
O. 6	William & Mary	35-31
O. 13	@MASSACHUSETTS	21-31
O. 27	Hofstra	20-16
N. 3	@RICHMOND	31-21
N. 10	@TOWSON	13-21
N. 17	Delaware	28-27

Coach: *Andy Talley* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

VIRGINIA
Charlottesville, VA

S. 1	@WYOMING	13-12 (OT)
S. 8	Duke	37-0
S. 15	@NORTH CAROLINA	23-0
S. 22	Georgia Tech	7-24
S. 29	Pittsburgh	13-38
O. 6	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
O. 13	Connecticut	
O. 20	@MARYLAND	26-28
O. 27	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	14-7
N. 3	Wake Forest	
N. 10	@MIAMI (FL)	17-7
N. 24	Virginia Tech	0-17

Coach: *Al Groh* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Cavaliers* ***2006 Record:*** *5-7*

VIRGINIA MILITARY
Lexington, VA

S. 1	Lock Haven	
S. 8	William & Mary	6-38
S. 15	@JAMES MADISON	7-45
S. 22	@LEHIGH	
S. 29	@ROBERT MORRIS	
O. 13	Presbyterian	
O. 20	Gardner-Webb	31-35
O. 27	@COASTAL CAROLINA	27-31
N. 3	Charleston Southern	22-27
N. 10	@LIBERTY	32-38
N. 17	Citadel	21-48

Coach: *Jim Reid* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Yellow* ***Nickname:*** *Keydets* ***2006 Record:*** *1-10*

VIRGINIA TECH
Blacksburg, VA

S. 1	East Carolina	
S. 8	@LSU	
S. 15	Ohio	
S. 22	William & Mary	
S. 29	North Carolina	35-10
O. 6	@CLEMSON	24-7
O. 13	@DUKE	36-0
O. 25	Boston College	3-22
N. 1	@GEORGIA TECH	27-38
N. 10	Florida State	
N. 17	Miami (FL)	17-10
N. 24	@VIRGINIA	17-0

Coach: *Frank Beamer* ***Colors:*** *Burnt Orange & Chicago Maroon* ***Nickname:*** *Hokies* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

WAGNER
Staten Island, NY

S. 8	@IONA	7-3
S. 15	Marist	38-7
S. 22	@ST. PETER'S	34-0
S. 29	Sacred Heart	17-25
O. 6	@ROBERT MORRIS	10-14
O. 13	@MONMOUTH	7-28
O. 20	Central Connecticut State	6-27
O. 27	Albany	0-34
N. 3	La Salle	38-15
N. 10	St. Francis (PA)	14-35
N. 17	@JACKSONVILLE	

Coach: *Walt Hameline* ***Colors:*** *Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Seahawks* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

WAKE FOREST
Winstan-Salem, NC

S. 1	@BOSTON COLLEGE	21-14
S. 8	Nebraska	
S. 15	Army	
S. 22	Maryland	38-24
O. 6	@DUKE	14-13
O. 11	Florida State	30-0
O. 20	@NAVY	
O. 27	North Carolina	24-17
N. 3	@VIRGINIA	
N. 10	@CLEMSON	17-27
N. 17	North Carolina State	25-23
N. 24	@VANDERBILT	

Coach: *Jim Grobe* ***Colors:*** *Black & Old Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Demon Deacons* ***2006 Record:*** *11-2*

WASHINGTON
Seattle, WA

A. 31	@SYRACUSE	
S. 8	Boise State	
S. 15	Ohio State	
S. 22	@UCLA	29-19
S. 29	USC	20-26
O. 13	@ARIZONA STATE	23-26 (OT)
O. 20	Oregon	14-34
O. 27	Arizona	21-10
N. 3	@STANFORD	3-20
N. 10	@OREGON STATE	17-27
N. 17	California	24-31 (OT)
N. 24	Washington State	35-32
D. 1	@HAWAII	

Coach: *Tyrane Willingham* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Huskies* ***2006 Record:*** *5-7*

WASHINGTON STATE
Pullman, WA

S. 1	@WISCONSIN	
S. 8	San Diego State*	
S. 15	Idaho	56-10
S. 22	@USC	22-28
S. 29	@ARIZONA	17-27
O. 6	Arizona State	14-47
O. 13	@OREGON	34-23
O. 27	UCLA	37-15
N. 3	@CALIFORNIA	3-21
N. 10	Stanford	36-10
N. 17	Oregon State	13-6
N. 24	@WASHINGTON	32-35

** At Seattle, WA*

Coach: *Bill Doba* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Cougars* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

WEBER STATE
Ogden, UT

A. 30	@BOISE STATE	
S. 15	@CAL POLY	0-17
S. 22	Montana State	18-24
S. 29	@MONTANA	30-33
O. 6	Sacramento State	21-24
O. 13	@NORTHERN COLORADO	26-21
O. 20	Northern Arizona	17-42
O. 27	@PORTLAND STATE	10-20
N. 3	Idaho State	30-27
N. 10	Fort Lewis	
N. 17	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	19-14

Coach: *Ron McBride* ***Colors:*** *Royal Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

WEST VIRGINIA
Morgantown, WV

S. 1	Western Michigan	
S. 8	@MARSHALL	42-10
S. 13	@MARYLAND	45-24
S. 22	East Carolina	27-10
S. 28	@SOUTH FLORIDA	19-24
O. 6	@SYRACUSE	41-17
O. 20	Mississippi State	42-14
O. 27	@RUTGERS	41-39 (OT)
N. 8	Louisville	34-44
N. 17	@CINCINNATI	42-24
N. 24	Connecticut	37-11
D. 1	Pittsburgh	45-27

Coach: *Rich Rodriguez* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Mountaineers* ***2006 Record:*** *10-2*

WESTERN CAROLINA
Cullowhee, NC

S. 1	@ALABAMA	
S. 8	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	20-17
S. 15	@GEORGIA	
S. 22	Presbyterian	
S. 29	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	14-24
O. 6	Elon	19-37
O. 13	@CHATTANOOGA	14-17 (OT)
O. 20	Citadel	27-30 (OT)
O. 27	Wofford	7-35
N. 10	@APPALACHIAN STATE	9-31
N. 17	Furman	7-42

Coach: *Kent Briggs* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Catamounts* ***2006 Record:*** *2-9*

WESTERN ILLINOIS
Macomb, IL

A. 30	South Dakota State	
S. 8	@ILLINOIS	
S. 15	St. Francis (IL)	
S. 22	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	
S. 29	North Dakota State	
O. 6	@INDIANA STATE	46-41
O. 13	Missouri State	21-24
O. 20	Northern Iowa	24-13
O. 27	@ILLINOIS STATE	14-27
N. 3	Southern Illinois	24-31
N. 10	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	28-35

Coach: *Don Patterson* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Leathernecks* ***2006 Record:*** *5-6*

WESTERN KENTUCKY
Bowling Green, KY

S. 1	@FLORIDA	
S. 8	West Virginia Tech	
S. 15	Eastern Kentucky	21-26
S. 20	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
S. 29	@BOWLING GREEN	
O. 13	@BALL STATE	
O. 20	@INDIANA STATE	41-3
O. 27	North Carolina Central	
N. 3	@CHATTANOOGA	28-21
N. 10	Troy	
N. 17	Morehead State	
N. 24	@NORTH TEXAS	

Coach: *Dovid Elsan* ***Colors:*** *Red & White* ***Nickname:*** *Hilltoppers* ***2006 Record:*** *6-5*

WESTERN MICHIGAN
Kalamazoo, MI

S. 1	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S. 8	Indiana	20-39
S. 15	@MISSOURI	
S. 22	Central Connecticut State	
S. 29	@TOLEDO	31-10
O. 6	Akron	17-0
O. 13	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	16-14
O. 20	Ball State	41-27
O. 27	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	18-15
N. 6	Central Michigan	7-31
N. 17	@IOWA	
N. 24	Temple	41-7

Coach: *Bill Cubit* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Broncos* ***2006 Record:*** *8-4*

WILLIAM & MARY
Williamsburg, VA

A. 30	Delaware	14-28
S. 8	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	38-6
S. 15	Liberty	14-13
S. 22	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S. 29	Towson	29-28
O. 6	@VILLANOVA	31-35
O. 13	@MAINE	17-20
O. 27	Massachusetts	7-48
N. 3	@HOFSTRA	14-16
N. 10	James Madison	17-31
N. 17	@RICHMOND	14-31

Coach: *Jimmye Laycock* ***Colors:*** *Green, Gold & Silver* ***Nickname:*** *Tribe* ***2006 Record:*** *3-8*

WINSTON-SALEM STATE
Winston-Salem, NC

S. 1	North Carolina A&T	41-14
S. 8	@COASTAL CAROLINA	12-31
S. 15	@MORGAN STATE	
S. 22	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	6-35
S. 29	@HOWARD	12-0
O. 6	Florida A&M*	21-25
O. 20	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-10
O. 27	Hampton	3-13
N. 3	Delaware State	
N. 10	North Carolina Central	
N. 17	@NORFOLK STATE	14-31

** At Indianapolis, IN*

Coach: *Kermit Blount* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & White* ***Nickname:*** *Rams* ***2006 Record:*** *4-7*

WISCONSIN
Madison, WI

S. 1	Washington State	
S. 8	@UNLV	
S. 15	Citadel	
S. 22	Iowa	24-21
S. 29	Michigan State	
O. 6	@ILLINOIS	30-24
O. 13	@PENN STATE	13-3
O. 20	Northern Illinois	
O. 27	Indiana	52-17
N. 3	@OHIO STATE	
N. 10	Michigan	13-27
N. 17	@MINNESOTA	48-12

Coach: *Bret Bielema* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & White* ***Nickname:*** *Badgers* ***2006 Record:*** *11-1*

WOFFORD
Spartanburg, SC

S. 1	Georgetown (KY)	
S. 8	Charleston Southern	
S. 15	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
S. 22	Appalachian State	7-14
S. 29	@FURMAN	21-35
O. 6	@CITADEL	28-20
O. 13	Gardner-Webb	34-17
O. 20	Elon	35-21
O. 27	@WESTERN CAROLINA	35-7
N. 3	Georgia Southern	28-10
N. 10	@CHATTANOOGA	55-0

Coach: *Mike Ayers* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Terriers* ***2006 Record:*** *7-4*

WYOMING
Laramie, WY

S. 1	Virginia	12-13 (OT)
S. 8	Utah State	38-7
S. 15	@BOISE STATE	10-17
S. 22	@OHIO	
O. 6	TCU	3-26
O. 13	New Mexico	14-10
O. 20	@AIR FORCE	24-31
O. 27	UNLV	34-26
N. 3	@SAN DIEGO STATE	27-24
N. 10	@UTAH	31-15
N. 17	Brigham Young	7-55
N. 23	@COLORADO STATE	24-0

Coach: *Joe Glenn* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Yellow* ***Nickname:*** *Cowboys* ***2006 Record:*** *6-6*

YALE
New Haven, CT

S. 15	@GEORGETOWN	
S. 22	Cornell	21-9
S. 29	@HOLY CROSS	
O. 6	Dartmouth	26-14
O. 13	Lehigh	26-20 (OT)
O. 20	@PENNSYLVANIA	17-14 (OT)
O. 27	@COLUMBIA	21-3
N. 3	Brown	27-24
N. 10	@PRINCETON	31-34
N. 17	Harvard	34-13

Coach: *Jack Siedlecki* ***Colors:*** *Yale Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2006 Record:*** *8-2*

YOUNGSTOWN STATE
Youngstown, OH

S. 1	@OHIO STATE	
S. 8	South Dakota State	
S. 15	Stony Brook	
S. 22	Lock Haven	
S. 29	Missouri State	37-10
O. 6	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	31-24
O. 13	Southern Utah	
O. 20	Illinois State	28-21
O. 27	@NORTHERN IOWA	23-31
N. 3	@INDIANA STATE	55-17
N. 10	Western Illinois	35-28

Coach: *Jan Heaçock* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & White* ***Nickname:*** *Penguins* ***2006 Record:*** *11-3*

2006 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
FLORIDA GATORS

2007-08 BOWL SCHEDULE

BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES FOX

ROSE BOWL
Jan. 1, 2008 (Pasadena, Calif.)
BCS vs. BCS
4:30 p.m. ★ ***ABC***

SUGAR BOWL
Jan. 1, 2008 (New Orleans)
BCS vs. BCS
8:30 p.m. ★ ***FOX***

FIESTA BOWL
Jan. 2, 2008 (Glendale, Ariz.)
BCS vs. BCS
8:00 p.m. ★ ***FOX***

ORANGE BOWL
Jan. 3, 2008 (Miami)
BCS vs. BCS
8:00 p.m. ★ ***FOX***

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Jan. 7, 2008 (New Orleans)
No. 1 BCS vs. No. 2 BCS
8:00 p.m. ★ ***FOX***

Allstate BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP NEW ORLEANS 2008

POINSETTIA BOWL
Dec. 20, 2007 (San Diego)
MWC vs. Navy/At-large
9:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

NEW ORLEANS BOWL
Dec. 21, 2007 (New Orleans)
Sun Belt vs. C-USA
8:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN2**

PAPAJOHNS.COM BOWL
Dec. 22, 2007 (Birmingham, Ala.)
Big East vs. C-USA
1:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN2**

NEW MEXICO BOWL
Dec. 22, 2007 (Albuquerque)
MWC vs. WAC
4:30 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

LAS VEGAS BOWL
Dec. 22, 2007 (Las Vegas)
MWC vs. Pac-10
8:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

HAWAII BOWL
Dec. 23, 2007 (Honolulu)
C-USA vs. WAC
8:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

MOTOR CITY BOWL
Dec. 26, 2007 (Detroit)
MAC vs. Big Ten
7:30 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

HOLIDAY BOWL
Dec. 27, 2007 (San Diego)
Big 12 vs. Pac-10
8:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL
Dec. 28, 2007 (Orlando)
ACC vs. Big Ten
5:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

TEXAS BOWL
Dec. 28, 2007 (Houston)
Big 12 vs. C-USA
8:00 p.m. ★ **NFL Network**

EMERALD BOWL
Dec. 28, 2007 (San Francisco)
ACC vs. Pac-10
8:30 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL
Dec. 29, 2007 (Charlotte, N.C.)
ACC vs. Big East
1:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

LIBERTY BOWL
Dec. 29, 2007 (Memphis)
C-USA vs. SEC
4:30 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

ALAMO BOWL
Dec. 29, 2007 (San Antonio)
Big Ten vs. Big 12
8:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

INDEPENDENCE BOWL
Dec. 30, 2007 (Shreveport, La.)
Big 12 vs. SEC
8:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

ARMED FORCES BOWL
Dec. 31, 2007 (Fort Worth, Texas)
MWC vs. Pac-10
12:30 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

SUN BOWL
Dec. 31, 2007 (El Paso, Texas)
Big East/Big 12/Notre Dame vs. Pac-10
2:00 p.m. ★ **CBS**

HUMANITARIAN BOWL
Dec. 31, 2007 (Boise, Idaho)
ACC vs. WAC
2:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN2**

MUSIC CITY BOWL
Dec. 31, 2007 (Nashville)
ACC vs. SEC
4:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

CHICK-FIL-A BOWL
Dec. 31, 2007 (Atlanta)
ACC vs. SEC
7:30 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

INSIGHT BOWL
Dec. 31, 2007 (Tempe, Ariz.)
Big Ten vs. Big 12
TBA ★ **NFL Network**

OUTBACK BOWL
Jan. 1, 2008 (Tampa)
Big Ten vs. SEC
11:00 a.m. ★ **ESPN**

COTTON BOWL
Jan. 1, 2008 (Dallas)
Big 12 vs. SEC
11:30 a.m. ★ **Fox**

GATOR BOWL
Jan. 1, 2008 (Jacksonville, Fla.)
ACC vs. Big East/Big 12/Notre Dame
1:00 p.m. ★ **CBS**

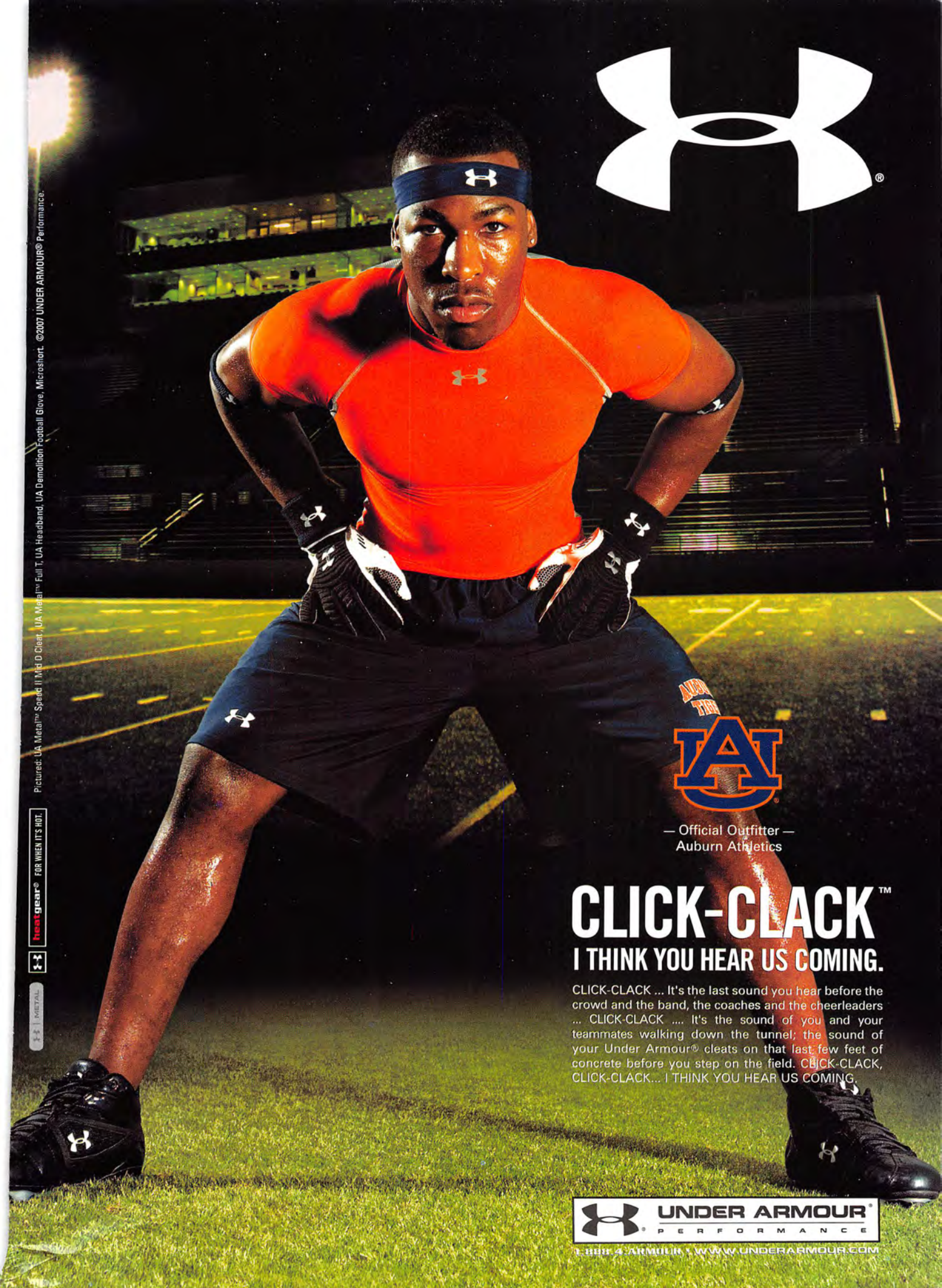
CAPITAL ONE BOWL
Jan. 1, 2008 (Orlando)
Big Ten vs. SEC
1:00 p.m. ★ **ABC**

INTERNATIONAL BOWL
Jan. 5, 2008 (Toronto)
Big East/Notre Dame vs. MAC
12:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN2**

GMAC BOWL
Jan. 6, 2008 (Mobile, Ala.)
C-USA vs. MAC
8:00 p.m. ★ **ESPN**

All times Eastern

TOP TO BOTTOM: ANDY LYONS / GETTY IMAGES; RON SCHWANE / ICON SMI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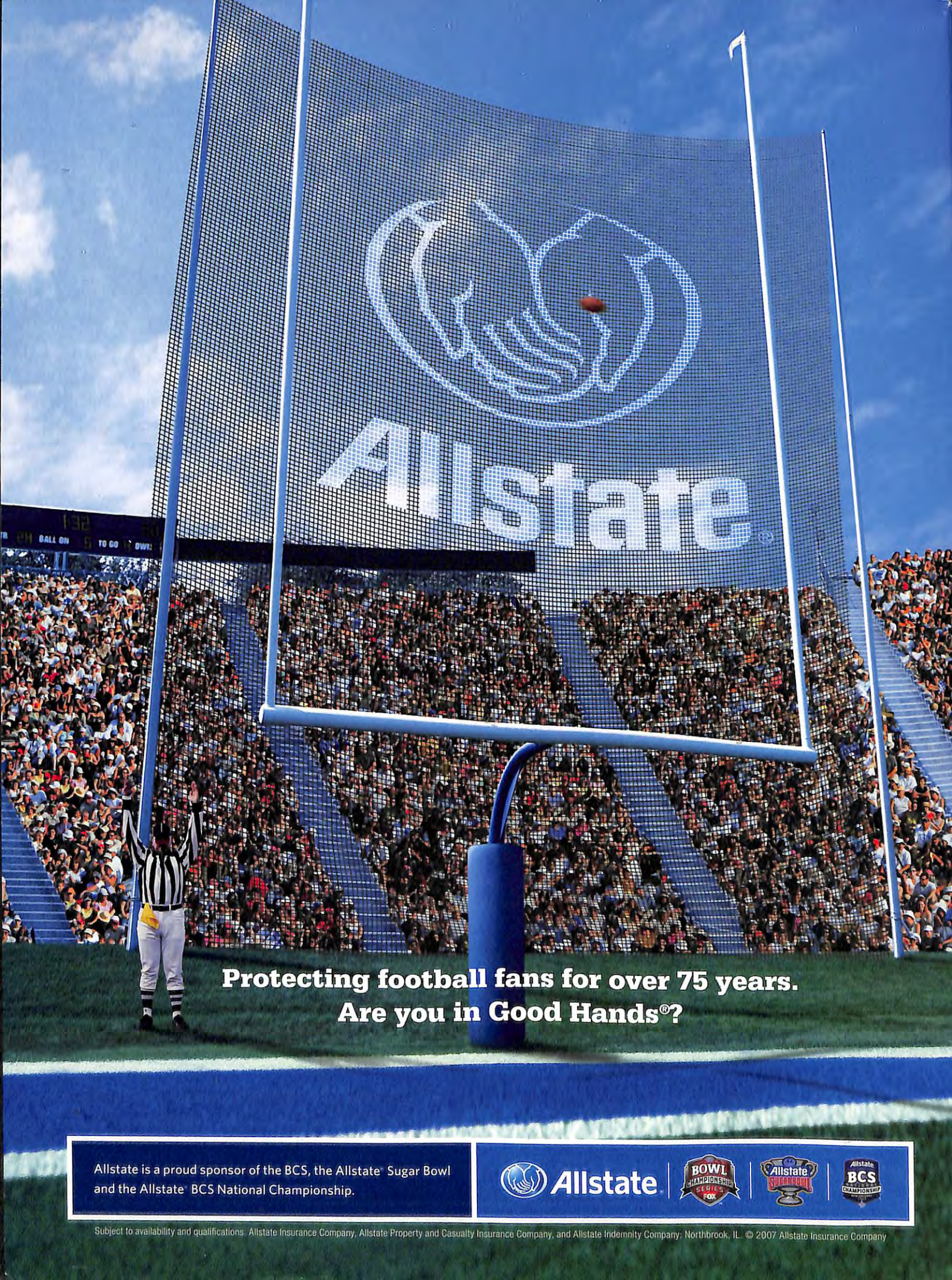
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